Stourbridge
CHRONICLE
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BRAVE IVAN IS AN INSPIRATION

Report by Andrew Turton

"WHERE there's hope there's life. Where there's life there's hope."

Those are the words of a brave cancer patient from Quarry Bank who is facing the future with a smile thanks to a fundraising drive.

Ivan Partridge has been hailed as an inspiration for his fundraising efforts in the wake of a devastating diagnosis. The 55-year-old was last year told he had a rare form of melanoma.

In recent days he has been given a bed at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice where he continues to have treatment.

Mr Partridge takes heart from the support of family and friends as he focuses on helping the hospice that is helping him. His campaign has raised almost £6,000 so far with Mr Partridge hoping to push the total past £10,000.

Ivan and Yvonne

"It has given me something to focus on," said Mr Partridge, of Patina Close.

His wife Yvonne has giving constant support ever since he first started feeling unwell in January 2015.

Mr Partridge was taken for tests after feeling tired and having a blocked nose.

But following an MRI scan came the news that he had nasal polyps and he then had his first operation to remove them.

Strong

Doctors informed the couple that Ivan had a rare strain of melanoma and would have to undergo major facial surgery. Doctors planned to remove part of his upper jaw and palate, left eye and part of his cheek in the procedure.

Yvonne, also 55, said: "He is quite a strong character." The couple, who have been together for 12 years, had been planning to get married this year in Greece but after his diagnosis decided to bring forward their wedding to Dudley Register Office with reception at Stourbridge Rugby Club.

Surgeons rebuilt Ivan's face using bone and muscle from his hip but in November the cancer had returned.

Mr Partridge decided to embark a fundraising drive. The couple collected around £1,900 in donations for the hospice from guests at their wedding in August instead of presents. He organised a charity night at The Laurels club in Colley Gate.

Mr Partridge, managing director at Motovario, Droitwich, says his colleagues have been supportive. He also thanked his daughter Rebecca, 23, and grandson Daniyal, step-children Emma, 28, her partner Michael, Aaron 23, and Emma's children Harley and Hudson.

MUSIC FANS CAN TAKE IT CHEESY WITH OLD HITS

Nicki Burrows, Brendon McKeown, James Challis, Kate Green and Dale Pickin are ready for nostalgia at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

PEOPLE can dust off their dancing shoes with plans revealed to create a new club night to boost the Black Country's music scene.

Brierley Hill Civic Hall will host a monthly big night out with the emphasis on nostalgia in a bid to bring crowds flocking to the venue, which has undergone a revamp.

Dudley Council transferred the day-to-day management of the hall, which attracts thousands of people every year, to the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) last year. Now the group wants to bolster the number of events held.

The hall, in Bank Street, will hold the monthly music events each Friday starting from tomorrow, costing £5 on the door.

Organisers say the Big Cheesy Nights Out will get the iconic building rocking to the sounds of the 1970s, 80s and 90s with a few more recent chart hits too.

The bar has recently been refurbished following the voluntary group's takeover of the hall in the town centre.

Dudley CVS chief officer, Andy Gray, said. "The revenue from commercial events at Brierley Hill Civic Hall is being re-invested into the voluntary sector. This enables us to offer the Civic Hall as a community building for community users. Our aim is to see Brierley Hill Civic Hall as a vibrant and accessible venue for all sorts of community activities, subsidised by income from commercial events."

CVS officer Brendan McKeown added: "We are really looking forward to it. It is great to have a cheesy night out and we want to bring them back to the area. We have lined up some good DJs who know their stuff and it should make for a good night."

HOSPITAL

566 parking fines around Russells Hall

MORE than 550 parking fines have been issued on roads surrounding Russells Hall Hospital over the last year.

Hundreds of drivers were caught out trying to dodge paying to park at the hospital, with the bulk of the fines being handed out along the A4101 High Street, Pensnett, which runs past the hospital.

A total of 566 parking tickets were handed out from April 1 last year to March 21 – more than 10 a week. Of those, 505 were slapped on windscreens on High Street with 42 along Pensnett Road.

ACCIDENT

Driver hurt when car hits bus stop

A DRIVER suffered a head injury when his car crashed into a bus stop near Russells Hall Hospital.

The accident happened close to the A&E department in High Street, Pensnett. Ambulance crews were flagged down on Saturday by a member of the public at about 2.55am

Murray MacGregor, a spokesman for the ambulance service, said: "The occupant of the car, a man in his 20s, had suffered a potentially serious head injury."

PLANNING

Mosque move has been put on hold

MUSLIM leaders have put controversial plans for a new mosque and community centre in Dudley on hold, saying 'we need to go back to the drawing board'.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) said it needs to re-think its vision after a court ruling meant it was forced to hand back land previously earmarked for the development.

Spokesman Amjid Raza said DMA had stopped work on the plan for a new mosque since the Court of Appeal decision in November. Confirming the scheme was now on hold, he added: "We have not had any discussions about other sites. We are not going to do anything at the moment."

INSIDE

CHEERS TO PUB OF THE YEAR

PAGE 3

CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	14
MEMORY LANE	16
THE FAST TICKET	21
PROPERTY	29
MOTORING	31
SPORT	39 & 40

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Prison for robber who terrified child

Ben Timmins - threats

A ROBBER who smashed his way into a Sedgley family home through a girl's bedroom window as she lay sleeping has been jailed.

A West Midlands Police officer said Ben Timmins left the three-year-old girl 'traumatised' after he used a house brick to smash his way through her window.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard the girl's parents were confronted by the raider after rushing to their child's bedroom after hearing a loud crash at 4am on January 29.

The thug then threatened to hurt the parents to pressure them into handing over their car keys.

Timmins, from Sudeley Gardens, Gornal, was sentenced to six years and two months in prison after pleading guilty to robbery.

The unemployed 26-year-old threatened to harm the family in front of the child if they didn't hand over the keys to their family car. He then threw the brick at the man, causing a minor injury, before climbing back through the window and driving off in their £5,000 car.

A short time later the vehicle was found overturned on its roof and abandoned but forensic inquiries led officers to identifying Timmins as the driver. He was arrested and charged after the family picked him out in an identity parade.

After sentencing, Detective Constable Neil Payton, from Brierley Hill Police Station, said: "This was a terrifying experience for the family. Timmins entered the family home through a child's bedroom window in the early hours of the morning. He then threatened her parents in front of the traumatised child."

Rock Zombie nightclub told to tighten security

A NIGHTCLUB in Dudley has been forced to tighten security following a spate of violence – including a Christmas Day machete attack.

The owners of Rock Zombie have been warned they must comply with new safety measures, which have been laid down by police, or face losing their licence.

A doorman was struck with a machete in the early hours of Christmas Day as violence flared outside the club in King Street.

A group of men had been turned away from the rock venue as they appeared to be drunk and, unhappy about this, turned on door staff. A security worker was hit so hard with the machete that the weapon broke and it was only his body armour which saved him from serious injury.

There were also a number of incidents during February, including one where a man was left with serious injuries.

Alarmed

Police chiefs were so alarmed by events at Rock Zombie that they ordered the premises licence be reviewed. Interim measures were put in place last month and now strict measures have been imposed which mean nobody will be allowed to enter after 1am.

There must be at least six door staff on duty at all times in future and customers will be searched amid concerns about weapons being brought into the club.

A man was caught on CCTV removing a potato peeler from his bag having just left the club, Dudley Council's licensing committee was told.

Duncan Craig, a barrister representing West Midlands Police, said there had been a serious incident on December 25 and four incidents on separate dates in February.

Mr Craig said police chiefs had been encouraged by a reduction in violence since interim measures were put in place .

Owners of Rock Zombie Kenny and Mandy Jinks said they were concerned that not being allowed to let new customers in after 1am was hampering their business.

But Mr Craig said: "One would hope they have come to recognise the merit of these conditions and will embrace them going forward."

Mr and Mrs Jinks declined to comment.

Warehouse plan mine concerns lifted

The Tesco Extra supermarket at Burnt Tree Island is now likely to get the green light for its online sales warehouse

OBJECTIONS to Tesco's plan for a dedicated warehouse for online sales in the Black Country because of concerns about it being built over a mine entrance have been lifted.

The DotCom centre would create 70 jobs and be used to deliver goods and groceries to shoppers' homes from Dudley's Burnt Tree Island supermarket if it is given the go-ahead at a meeting next week.

The scheme had been left hanging in the balance after the Coal Authority raised concerns that part of the planned extension would be built over a recorded mine entry.

Since then the supermarket giant has provided details of a survey of the site. A report by Andy Jones from engineering consultant Fairhurst says the mine entry was 'not considered at risk of collapse' and had been 'treated' in 1991 and 2010 to make it secure. He said the building's foundations would be reinforced to further mitigate the potential risk of ground gas.

James Smith, planning liaison officer at The Coal Authority says he is now satisfied Tesco has demonstrated the site 'can be made safe and stable' for the development.

Dudley Council planning officers have recommended the project is approved by councillors on Monday. Planning officer Faisal Agha said approval was subject to the applicant entering into a Section 106 legal agreement to provide a contribution of £12,720 to fund continued air quality monitoring.

Concern as hate crimes in mosque areas are up

POLICE investigated more than 200 reports of hate crime near mosques in one year with one community leader in Dudley saying Muslim women wearing hijabs (veils) are being targeted.

More than 2,000 separate incidents have been reported over the last 15 years with the numbers hitting a high in 2015. Figures released through a Freedom of Information request revealed police were called out to mosques and surrounding areas 235 times last year alone.

There were 197 separate call-outs two years ago, revealing an upward trend in such attacks, showing a steady rise since 2012.

Pairs

Amjid Raza, spokesman for Dudley Muslim Association, said: "We have noticed a rise in such crimes during the last five or six years. It is having an impact on the Muslim community, especially when there are major terrorist attacks.

"Muslim women wearing hijabs are particularly targeted and when something like the incident in Brussels happens we actively encourage the community to walk round in pairs.

"We work very closely with the police and more people are willing to actually report such hate crimes these days because they have grown in confidence. There are multiple factors for a rise in such crimes but we think more people are willing to come forward."

Police Commissioner David Jamieson said: "The number of hate crimes in the West Midlands is monitored closely."

Pervert back in jail over images

A SEX offender has been sent back to prison after again making indecent images of children. Paul Armson will spend 12 months behind bars after buying a mobile phone to look at banned pictures.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Armson, aged 50, had pleaded guilty to making indecent images and admitted to police under questioning he continued to have a sexual interest in children.

Armson, of Upper Ashley Street, Halesowen, had previously served time in prison and was ordered to carry out a community sex offender's programme after being caught with 42 indecent images in 2003.

Record Abigail Nixon sentenced Armson to 12 months in prison, banned him from internet access and placed him on the sex offenders register for 10 years.

On fitness trail for college anniversary

MORE than 50 children walked Halesowen College's brand new fitness trail to mark its open day and the beginning of its 50th birthday celebrations.

The children came together to walk, be pushed or carried for Sport Relief during a 1960s-themed celebration.

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Busy MP to stand down from his council role

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has stepped down from his role as a councillor ahead of May's local elections.

The Conservative MP, who secured his seat in the House of Commons last May, said it was always his intention to stand down from Dudley Council.

Mr Wood has served for two years as ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East on Dudley Council but says it has become 'increasingly difficult' to continue with the dual roles.

Mr Wood, who has been dividing his time between Dudley and London, said he intended to stand aside now to 'avoid the expense' of the council holding a separate by-election ahead of May's council poll.

In a letter to council chief executive Sarah Norman, Mr Wood said: "It has been an enormous privilege to serve as a ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East for the past two years. However, since I was elected to Parliament last May, it has become increasingly difficult to fulfil the important role of being a local councillor as effectively as I would like.

"Ahead of last year's General Election, I indicated my intention to stand down as a councillor this spring to coincide with the local elections on May 5. By doing so I hoped to avoid the expense to the taxpayer of holding a stand-alone by-election, whilst allowing a replacement to be elected alongside the main set of local elections who can focus on work within the council and for the people of Pedmore and Stourbridge East."

UKIP councillor in fly Pride flag call

A UKIP councillor has urged the local authority to show its support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community by flying the Pride flag on May 17.

Sedgley Councillor Bill Etheridge, also a West Midlands Euro MP, has endorsed calls for an International Day against Homophobia. He gave his backing to Shaun Keasey, a UKIP candidate for Sedgley, who wants Dudley Council to fall into line with Wolverhampton and Birmingham, both of which display the distinctive rainbow colours Pride flag on May 17.

Mr Keasey said: "Even in 2016 the level of homophobia around the world is unacceptable. We must show that being gay is totally normal and hatred has no place in our towns."

Two immigration arrests in Lye

TWO men from Afghanistan were arrested during an immigration enforcement operation in Lye. Police visited Khyber Mixed Grill and Pizza in High Street and arrested a 21-year-old failed asylum seeker and a 26-year-old who had entered the UK illegally.

Ex-swim star dies suddenly, aged 42

Alex Wooldridge from Wollaston

"HE lived his life to the fullest and was loved by everyone."

These are the words of heartbroken mother Marguerite Wooldridge after her son Alex, a former Stourbridge swimming star, died suddenly from suspected heart failure, aged 42.

He grew up in Larkhill Road, Wollaston and has been described as one of the finest swimmers the Black Country ever produced, winning a string of Worcester County titles and competing at national level.

Mr Wooldridge is survived by his wife Ren Fang, a nurse, and daughters, four-year-old Jessica and one-year-old Charlotte, who he lived with in Basingstoke. His mother said: "He made the most of every opportunity given to him and the amount of people who have contacted us to offer support has been incredible."

His swimming success came after he followed his sister Olivia into the sport. Mr Wooldridge won an under-eight trophy when he was just six at Stourbridge Swimming Club, with the guidance of instructors Brian and Olwyn Craddock.

He represented Dudley Metro and City of Birmingham and competed against Olympic-standard swimmers, beating the likes of Adam Ruckwood and Nick Gillingham.

He enjoyed success in the West Midlands Biathlon Championships in 1984 and 1986, and was under-17 boys 1500m champion at Dudley borough schools athletics in 1989.

Mr Wooldridge was a former pupil at Gig Mill Primary, Edgecliff High and King Edward VI college, where he was captain of the basketball team. He went on to study at Warwick University and worked for a software company in Guildford for 16 years.

Ref injured in violence at a children's match

A FOOTBALL referee was injured as violence flared among spectators at a children's match in Halesowen.

Oliver Howard, aged 25, was left 'battered and bruised' following the trouble that erupted while he refereed a game between two under-14s teams.

A male spectator, aged 49, was also injured in the incident during the game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers under-14s.

Tempers flared with several people alleged to have been involved, according to an onlooker.

Police have arrested a 52-year-old man in connection with the violence. He has been bailed pending further inquires.

Mr Howard, who has been a referee for around five years, said onlookers came to his aid following the altercation at a Sunday match.

The referee, from Halesowen, said he was unable to go into the details of the allegations due to the ongoing police probe.

Horrible

But he did say: "I'm OK following what happened. It was a horrible experience. My concern is always for the welfare of the young players in this instance."

The 11-a-side fixture was being played in Stourbridge and District Youth and Girls Football League.

League chairman Bob Hickman said he was shocked by the incident.

"I don't get it with some people who think they are at the World Cup rather than watching junior football," he said. "I have liaised with Mr Howard since it happened and my concern was for his welfare."

Mr Hickman said violence had flared in the past, prompting the league to introduce a respect programme this season. This involves spot checks at games, education for players, and ensuring child welfare and enjoyment of the sport is a priority.

West Midlands Police spokesman Hannah Fitzgerald said: "A man has been arrested following an assault at a Halesowen amateur football match. Police were called to Newfield Park, Whittingham Road, following reports that a 49-year-old man had been assaulted. Officers arrested a 52-year-old man from an address in Halesowen. The man has been bailed pending further police enquiries."

Mr Howard said details of the incident were in his report for Birmingham County FA.

Steve Cutler, of Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of CAMRA, presents landlord Mel Wood with his certificate for pub of the year

Raising a glass to pub of the year

CHEERS! Workers and regulars at a pub in Brierley Hill are raising a glass in celebration after being named pub of the year.

The Vine in Delph Road has been crowned this year's top pub by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) for the Dudley and South Staffordshire region.

The achievement is extra special for landlord Mel Wood, who was in charge the last time the pub won the prestigious award 20 years ago.

CAMRA judges pubs in a range of areas, including beer quality, service, atmosphere and value.

The pub, which is also known as the Bull and Bladder, is run by Black Country brewery Batham's.

Mr Wood said: "We have been in the running for the last four or five years, so it is nice to get it.

"It was a bit of a shock to win it again after all these years but it's great for the pub. It's all about the beer. The Batham's beer is very good this year."

Other finalists included the Beacon Hotel in Sedgley and the Jolly Crispin in Upper Gornal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver is rescued from flood water

A MAN was rescued from his car on the main Wolverhampton to Kidderminster A449 road near Whittington Manor, Kinver, by firefighters from Brierley Hill after the Ford Mondeo cut out in eight inch deep water.

The rescue came as the Midlands and southern England were lashed by Storm Katie. There was torrential rain and even snow across parts of the Black Country on Easter Monday.

Crews from Dudley and Wombourne also pushed a VW Golf out of water after it got stuck in flood water a foot deep.

£6,900 goes to mayor's charities

THE Mayor of Dudley's charities appeal fund has been given a huge boost after £6,900 was raised at the annual ball.

Three hundred guests attended the sell-out fundraiser on March 18 when for the first time the Mayor's Ball was combined with the Civic Awards.

The cash was donated by guests during the evening by bidding in an auction, as well as a tombola, sit-down stand-up bingo and a raffle. Prizes and items had all been donated. Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho said: "I am overwhelmed by the generosity."

Council's app is a download hit

THOUSANDS of people have made use of the Dudley Council smartphone app, which has received its 3,000th download.

The app allows people to report a range of issues to the council including fly-tipping, graffiti and potholes.

People can also get the latest news from the borough, see the latest job opportunities, while tenants can request home repairs.

The app is available via iTunes or the Google Play store.

New campaign will combat Type 2 diabetes

NEW projects aimed at helping people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes are being launched in Dudley and Sandwell.

These are two of 27 areas across the country due to begin offering the scheme, which includes help with healthy eating and exercise. The schemes are part of the national NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme aimed at helping patients change their lifestyles. GPs will invite people they know to be at high risk to enrol.

Club quiz fundraiser

LYE Cricket Club is holding a fundraising quiz night.

The event at its pavilion in Stourbridge Road on Friday, April 8, at 7.30pm and is for teams of up to six people.

It will cost £2 per team member to enter the quiz.

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THINGS misheard. A reader recalls her two children returning from a music lesson at primary school singing: "Edelweiss, edelweiss, bless my old man forever."

ANOTHER reader swears he heard someone on Bargain Hunt (BBC1) showing off a haemorrhoid barometer.

RESEARCH by the Royal College of Music suggests that playing the drums in group sessions can help reduce the players' depression and anxiety. And what of the mental wellbeing of the people next door . . ?

INSURANCE company research shows the number of speeding drivers nabbed by police last year was up 20 per cent on the previous year. Good to see one successful growth industry, innit? Kerching!

PRESUMABLY the cops are able to concentrate on hunting down motorists because figures for recorded crime are falling. But then it's no wonder, given that crime figures are shamelessly massaged to leave out anything embarrassing. For example, my computer spam folder shows that between March 13-23 there were 88 attempts to steal personal information and take money from me. There are literally billions of these attempted thefts every year, yet they appear absolutely nowhere in any crime statistics. Mind how you go.

CLAYTON Williams, aged 19, has been jailed for 20 years for killing Pc Dave Phillips during a high speed chase, just three weeks after coming out of jail on licence. This is what his lawyer told the court: "Mr Williams comes from a deprived area of Merseyside and . . . had a lack of education and a lack of opportunity. Lessons need to be learnt by Government that communities and young people, who are abandoned by the State, who lack opportunity and direction will sometimes turn to crime." So in this version, Williams is the victim, Pc Phillips was part of the system that oppressed him and the real villains were the politicians. What a wonderful exercise in shifting the blame. Paid for, of course, by you and me.

HOW to deal with terrorists? Christine Shawcroft, a member of Labour's national executive, says we should have a cup of tea with Islamic State leaders instead of bombing them. When her comments become public, she insisted they were "jocular." So here's the joke in full. Speaking at a Labour First meeting, she imagined a voter suggesting that Jeremy Corbyn would take tea with terrorists instead of fighting them. And here's the "jocular" punchline. Shawcroft said: "Now I mean, you know, maybe we should try it!" Don't give up the day job, eh?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Police use Tasers on people young as 14

TASERS have been deployed nearly 700 times in three years by police in the West Midlands.

Figures reveal that people as young as 14 have had the stun gun used on them by officers.

Between 2013 and 2015 Tasers were deployed a total of 696 times in the region. They were used 230 times in 2013, 251 times in 2014 and 215 times in 2015. In 2013 the youngest person targeted was 15. But in 2014 and 2015 the youngest target was 14.

The figures, released after a Freedom of Information request, also revealed the techniques used to fire the controversial weapon.

An 'angled drive stun' was used 26 times in the three years, which sees officers fire the Taser with a live cartridge inside and holds the device to a different part of the target's body. This causes them to become incapacitated. A Taser was deployed in a 'drive stun' action 19 times in the period, where officers pull the trigger while it is held against someone's body. This causes pain but does not knock them out.

West Midlands Police said the figures related to how many times a Taser had been deployed rather than how many people had been 'Tasered'.

Last year after it was revealed the force used them on children 46 times in a year.

Chief Inspector Danny Delaney, said: "Tasers are not drawn lightly by officers. They are used where there is a risk of violence and provide an additional option to resolve situations that can arise from all sections of the public, including under-18s. Officers have undergone detailed training."

Lots of children's fun activities at museums

By David Banner

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy lots more activities, holiday schools and family fun days with the Juniors at Museums club this Easter break.

Activities are on offer at Dudley Council's two museum sites, from craft activities to films to free trails.

Free family trails, where children can hunt for clues around the venues, will be available every day to April 10 at the Red House Glass Cone and until April 9 at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

There is a free, drop-in, Sticky Saturday session on April 9 at Dudley Museum and at the Red House Glass Cone on April 16 with the chance to have a go at a craft and get messy and sticky. Sticky Saturday runs 1.30pm to 3.30pm at both venues.

Dudley Museum is continuing its popular Family Film Club on April 9 at 11am. Drop in and see what's showing.

Jungle

Dudley Museum is also hosting a drop-in 'jungle madness' family crafts day on April 7 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Families can take part in a range of craft activities for £2.35 per child. There is no need to book for this session.

At the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley, on Monday youngsters aged eight to 12 can enrol in a day-long spring themed holiday school from 9.30am to 3.30pm and take part in a range of crafts, under the safe guidance of museum education staff. Places cost £23 and must be booked and paid for in advance.

There is also the chance to make fused glass cats and dogs at the cone on Tuesday with bookable sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm. Sessions cost £4.25.

Dudley Museum is open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday, closed Bank Holidays; Red House Glass Cone opens 10-4 Monday to Sunday, open Bank Holidays. See www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums website.

Singing African orphans inspire pupils

Joshua Mukisa and Charlie Hollowood, front, with the Destiny Africa Choir and members of Amlecote Primary choir

AN AFRICAN choir left pupils at a Stourbridge primary school 'spellbound' by their stunning performances.

The Destiny Africa Children's Choir from Uganda spent a day at Amblecote Primary, performing their own songs, sharing the stage with the school choir and putting on a drumming workshop.

The inspirational group – made up of orphans aged from nine to 20 – are travelling Europe as part of a tour to 'share their story of hope and change lives'.

Headteacher Ann Mason said the event had been 'wonderful' and inspired both children and adults alike.

She said: "We had an assembly in the afternoon and they performed to the children and the school. Our children were spellbound.

"They sang some of their songs and our choir sang with them, then some of our children went to learn African drumming.

"They were so enthusiastic and energetic, dancing and moving, it was wonderful. That is what their culture is about, moving and dancing."

What truly shone through was the determination of all members of the choir to overcome their difficult starts in life and really make a difference, added Mrs Mason. "What is inspiring is the fact that they are all orphans and have had awful lives, lost their families, but they are still positive and have high aspirations."

A sale of African crafts raised money for the visitors and the school gave a £300 donation.

Ban and jail sentence for 'hardened' drink-driver

A DRINK-DRIVER from Lower Gornal has been jailed and banned from the roads for seven years after he crashed into a car when more than three times the alcohol limit before fleeing the scene in Sedgley.

But Lee Bias was tracked down by the driver whose car he had hit.

Bias, aged 39, was driving his Saab in High Holborn when he hit a Peugeot, knocking off its wing mirror, and the aggrieved driver set off in pursuit.

Bias, of North Oval, had 116 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when tested by police. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

Bias initially claimed he had drunk wine after returning home after the incident but later pleaded guilty to drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

District judge Graham Wilkinson was told that Bias had three previous convictions for drink-driving, dating back to 1994.

As he was not breathalysed immediately after the accident, Mr Wilkinson said it was likely the alcohol reading would have been higher at the time of the crash.

Jailing Bias for 20 weeks and disqualifying him, Mr Wilkinson told him: "You are a hardened drink-driver, one of the hardcore who can't get the message. For 22 years you have been willing to kill someone. You are a man who believes he can drink and drive. People like you have to learn the consequences of drinking and driving."

MP speaks out for mini-bond victims

AN MP has launched a campaign in support of hundreds of people who lost thousands of pounds in a mini-bonds scheme which turned sour.

A total of £7.5 million was invested in a scheme operated by Secured Energy Bonds (SEB). The scheme was approved by a Financial Conduct Authority authorised firm, but the money was never invested in renewable energy as promised. Most of the money was siphoned to the business's Australian parent company before it went into administration, leaving investors out of pocket.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I'm really concerned that people across the country have lost nearly £7.5m after being ripped off. The authorities should make sure that no one is left out of pocket."

Hundreds struck by scarlet fever in region

MORE than 200 cases of scarlet fever have been confirmed across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest since September. But in Dudley there has been a drop with 73 children diagnosed compared with 102 during the previous season.

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Tata Steel sites saved as rescue move grows

LIBERTY House, the company that swept in to salvage factories and almost 1,000 jobs in the Black Country after the collapse of Caparo, has now saved two steel plants in Scotland.

It puts the former Caparo plants in the Black Country at the centre of a nationwide steel business with a declared aim to invest and rebuild.

Liberty, headed by the Gupta family, has struck a deal with the Scottish Government to buy both of Tata Steel's mothballed plants in Dalzell and Clydebridge.

The move is set to mark a dramatic change in fortunes for the workforce at the former Caparo engineering plants who faced losing their jobs six months ago. Caparo Industries collapsed with £160 million of debt in October and it led to the loss of around 500 jobs.

But Liberty House, which had reopened the former Mir Steel plant in Newport, South Wales, just a few months before, saved 950 jobs as it bought Caparo's tubing, engineering and strip businesses in Bilston, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Willenhall, Wednesbury, Cradley Heath and Dudley.

At the same time as Caparo collapsed, Tata Steel mothballed its two Scottish plants, costing the jobs of nearly 300 workers. But now a 'back-to-back' agreement has seen the Scottish Government buying the plants from Tata Steel and then immediately selling them on to Liberty for the same terms, at no cost to the taxpayer.

New hit-and-run witness appeal

POLICE have renewed a witness appeal for information a year after a Sandwell teenager was killed in a hit-and-run crash.

Adam Jones, aged 15, was knocked down in West Bromwich and despite a massive police investigation the killer has still not been caught.

The teenager, from Wednesbury, died when he was hit by a blue Volkswagen Bora as he crossed the junction of Beacon View Road and Walsall Road in West Bromwich with his bike, just after 7.30pm on March 26 last year. The driver abandoned the vehicle and ran off without calling for help for Adam.

Anyone with information should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Charity quiz night in aid of Oxfam

PEOPLE can test their general knowledge at a quiz in aid of Stourbridge Oxfam on Saturday at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Amblecote at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7 which includes fish and chips or vegan option.

Tributes after Sandwell Council boss dies

Popular politician Darren Cooper

'HE was Black Country through and through.' That's just one of the many tributes paid to Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper after his sudden death at the weekend.

People from across the political spectrum joined former Labour Party leaders Ed Miliband, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair in paying tribute to Councillor Cooper, 52, who led the borough's authority for nearly seven years. Many suggested he had been destined for even greater things.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey said he had 'no doubt' Councillor Cooper was on track to be elected as an MP or metro mayor of the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

Mr Blair said the council leader was 'one of Labour's most committed and passionate local government leaders of the last 20 years'.

Mr Cooper was hailed as 'a true son of Sandwell' by friend Tom Watson, the deputy leader of the Labour Party and West Bromwich East MP. Councillor Cooper was elected in Soho and Victoria ward in Smethwick, where he grew up, in 1991 and became council leader in December 2009.

The father of three, who died at home on Saturday, had played a key role in bringing together the West Midlands Combined Authority in a bid to ensure the region can compete with London and big northern cities.

Mr Watson said: "We shall all miss Darren, a true son of Sandwell. My thoughts, prayers and love are with his wife Karen and Darren's family."

Mr Bailey, who knew Councillor Cooper for 25 years, said: "He loved public service, he loved politics and he loved the Black Country. He was Black Country through and through."

Sale of vicious 'zombie' knives to be banned

THE sale, manufacture and importing of vicious 'zombie' knives is to be banned, after a campaign backed by MPs and the region's police and crime commissioner.

The new legislation announced by Home Secretary Theresa May will mean offenders could face up to four years in prison.

The knives have names such as Head Splitter, Death Dagger and The Skinner.

It is already an offence to be in possession of a 'zombie-killer' knife in a public place and school premises under the Act.

The ban will form part of the Government's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy.

It follows a campaign by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson against the sale of the weapons.

Mr Jamieson met Home Office minister Karen Bradley, Staffordshire Moorlands MP, to discuss the issue earlier this month.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has also spoken in Parliament against the sale of the brutal-looking knives.

Last week Home Secretary Theresa May said: "There can be no legitimate reason for anyone to need one of these so called 'zombie-killer' knives.

"The fact that they glamourise violence and are clearly marketed at teenagers makes them all the more sickening.

"They are dangerous weapons and have no place on our streets."

West Midlands Police Chief Constable Dave Thompson had also voiced his concern over the startling rise in blades being used in attacks.

Trend

At least four of the 13 murders in the Black Country last year were stabbings.

A 'zombie knife' was recently found in the West Midlands, sparking fears they may be becoming more widespread across the region.

Earlier this month, Mr Jamieson said: "In the case of 'zombie knives' we are getting in before any serious problems arise. The knives are beginning to appear in the West Midlands. This is a new trend. Let's get in before they are everywhere on our streets."

The Government says it has already taken action to tackle knife crime including minimum mandatory sentences of up to six months prison for those caught in possession of a knife for a second time.

First Charlotte memorial award

Charlotte's parents Martyn and Barbara present the award in their daughter's name to eight-year-old Jacob Lain

A PRIZE awarded in the memory of a Black Country girl killed in the Dunblane school massacre 20 years ago has been presented a pupil at her former school.

Jacob Lain is the first recipient of Cradley C of E Primary's Charlotte Dunn Award.

Charlotte, aged five, grew up in the Black Country and spent her reception year at the school before moving to Scotland.

In a moving ceremony last wek at St Peter's Church, Cradley, where Charlotte was baptised, her parents Barbara and Martyn presented eight-year-old Jacob with the prize. The Year 3 pupil said he was 'really happy and excited' while his father Matt, 33, said he was 'so proud'.

Mr Dunn, 55, donned a Lion King tie for the occasion in a nod to Charlotte's favourite film. He called Jacob a richly-deserving winner of the prize, awarded to a pupil who exemplifies the school's values.

Mr Dunn said: "He has set the standard for others to follow. It was great to see someone so proud and the smile on his face when we called his name was lovely."

The award was presented at the end of the school's Easter service. Cradley headteacher Marcia Harris, who also taught Charlotte, said: "Jacob is a lovely, sensible, gentle young man."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bus benches back at Merry Hill stop

BOSSES at Merry Hill have made a U-turn over their decision to remove benches by the bus station.

Shoppers called for them to be returned saying there was a lack of seating for people waiting for buses. Now Intu, which owns the shopping centre, has pledged to bring them back.

Guest services manager Kay Starkey said: "We temporarily removed the seating from the area near the bus station as part of a wider seating review. We will be re-instating some of the seating back into this area in the coming weeks."

Homes planned at former school

PLANNING bosses have backed plans to knock down a former primary school in Pensnett to make way for new homes.

The Education Centre in Church Street has been empty for several years and last used as a training base.

A total of 14 homes would be built on the site under the plans with the development split into detached and semi-detached properties.

The scheme has been recommended for approval with a final decision expected to be made by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday.

Hundreds back Sir Jack banner call

MORE than 600 people have signed a petition calling for a banner in tribute to Sir Jack Hayward to be reinstated at Molineux.

Wolves fan Mark Evans is calling on the club to bring back a banner, which was put up in tribute to former Wolves owner and life president Sir Jack after his death in January last year.

Mr Evans set up a petition online at thepetitionsite.com, and now more than 620 people have supported the cause.

Recycle Easter Egg packaging at store

SHOPPERS can recycle their Easter egg packaging at Sainsbury's Amblecote until Tuesday, April 12.

The specially designed Easter recycling facility allows customers to recycle the elements of Easter egg packaging – including plastic, card and paper.

The scheme makes it easier to recycle the packaging from eggs, and includes rigid plastic, which not all local kerbside collections accept.

Bavarian fundraiser

TICKETS have gone on sale for an annual Bavarian themed fundraiser on April 22 at Wilson Hall in Colley Gate in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets for the event, which starts at 7.15pm, cost £15 and include a fish and chips supper. Call (01384) 377778.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Basement for £70m? I'm in the wrong job

MY first reaction to reading about tycoon Robert Beecham's plans for a £70 million underground basement in Primrose Hill, central London, was that I must be in the wrong job.

The application, approved by Camden Council, includes a Roman bath, juice bar, and room to store his cigar collection. And, according to the reports, Mr Beecham has made his money out of Star Wars bubble bath.

My second thought was about why people go to these lengths just for the sake of living in central London.

You would think somebody enterprising enough to make billions out of Darth Vader detergent would have the imagination to realise that there is life north of the Watford Gap, where there is also cleaner air and plenty of space to build as big a cigar room as you could possibly want.

But then I read that the project will cause noise and disruption for Jamie Oliver. In that case, bring on the bulldozers.

❒❒❒

THERE have been a lot of changes to West Bromwich in recent years. Most of them positive.

Yes, there was the disastrous Public arts centre, which in reality became a very expensive public toilet, but that was years ago, and it at least looks like lessons have been learned from that debacle.

And the New Square shopping development is a prime example of what can be achieved when local government works with retailers and developers, and gives the people what they want, rather than what it thinks they should want.

However, one thing that has never been addressed is the dreadful road layout. One-way systems, no-entry signs, no-left turn, no-right turn.

Every time I have been down there in the hunt for the very limited number of free, on-street parking spaces – and wild horses would not make me pay for car parking – I have become lost in the nightmarish road system.

And more often than not, I seem to end up by the bus station.

Have I broken any traffic regulations? I hope not, but in all honesty, it is possible.

Anyway, the council has now decided to undo much of the good work by installing a CCTV camera on one of the bus-only roads. It will no doubt prove to be a gold mine, raising a fortune from all the confused motorists, but I'm not going to be one of them. I think I will be steering clear of West Bromwich for a while.

❒❒❒

MEMORY like a sieve, me. Completely forgot all about Earth Hour on March 19, when we were supposed to turn out our lights as a gesture towards fighting global warming. Never mind, did mine between 1am and 2am on Sunday, to mark the start of British Summer Time. Better late than never.

The miniscule Noddy Holder figure

Music legend Robert Plant

Willard seen with his unique viewing stations to magnify the artworks

Wild man of rock Ozzy Osbourne

Willard getting to the point for next display

NICK HUMPHREYS talks to the creator of amazing microscopic figures Willard Wigan as he plans a new exhibition

BLACK Country rock legend Noddy Holder and micro-sculpting star Willard Wigan look set to join forces again with a mini monsters of rock show.

Willard unveiled his incredible sculpture of the Slade frontman in the eye of a needle at Wolverhampton's Light House.

And such was the reaction from both Noddy and the crowd, that the acclaimed artist wants to create a legends of rock music exhibition in the West Midlands.

He plans to create sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO as well as Black Sabbath frontman and West Midlands music legend Ozzy Osbourne. Mr Wigan said: "What we have done is we have started something here. I want to celebrate the West Midlands and the legends of rock music.

"I am going to New York to film a commercial for Nestle where I'm going to be carving the world's smallest piece of chocolate.

Legends

"But when I come back, I'm going to make sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO, Ozzy Osbourne and other legends of rock and we're going to hold an exhibition in the West Midlands. I'd like Noddy to host it for me.

"I want to celebrate music and the West Midlands. The 60s and 70s was the best era for music, it still influences young people today."

Walsall-raised Noddy hopes the Light House exhibition and the rock legends one, which is being planned, will make people sit up and take notice that the Black Country has talent. He said: "The thing is, you go around the world and people hear you speak and they think you're thick. People say we've got nothing here. I always say, 'well have you ever been?' They've never experienced the warmth of the people, it's the people that make a place.

Willard Wigan with the ex-Slade singer at the launch of his exhibition at The Light House

I don't live here any more but my heart is always here. You never lose your roots."

Mr Wigan added: "Think of the people who have come from here, you've got Noddy, myself, Denise Lewis, Goldie, the list goes on. There are talented people from here, so people shouldn't think that because they come from the Midlands they can't go on to achieve big things.

"The Queen of England was so overwhelmed by my work she gave me three letters," added Mr Wigan, who was given an MBE in 2007 for his services to art.

The sculpture of Noddy is the main attraction at the exhibition, which features more than 20 miniature masterpieces.

All the works have been created in the eye of a needle, set on a plate and mounted underneath a microscope inside a perspex bubble.

After becoming visibly emotional and shocked at the likeness of the tiny artwork to himself, in which he's wearing a sharp suit and has his trademark wild hair, he warmly embraced and thanked the creator.

Noddy, aged 69, said: "To have someone who is at the top of the tree at what they do to make something like that, it's probably the biggest honour I've ever had, and I've been a professional in the music industry for 50 years. He is the biggest and the best in the world at what he does.

"When I look at it, it is me! When I saw that he'd done it I had to come and see it in the flesh, and it is just brilliant. I am honoured that he has done this for me."

Mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield and city MP Rob Marris were among the admirers of Willard's work at the exhibition, as well as West Midlands stars Jemma Bird, of The Apprentice fame, drummer Fuzz Townshend, singer Connie Talbot from Britain's Got Talent and voice artist Marc Silk.

On his incredible work of Noddy, Willard said: "When I set about to do this, I thought is there anybody worth me putting in the eye of a needle?

"There are a few, but I thought is there anyone from my hometown that has made such a big influence on the world. Someone from the West Midlands.

"Then I thought, I know who he is, because my mum keeps singing his songs every Christmas! She's passed away now but I still here her singing his songs.

"His name is Noddy Holder, one of the greatest rock legends of all time.

"I wanted to make the biggest, smallest tribute to the man on this earth."

He added: "Noddy has had that massive impact on the world that will live on forever, this huge legacy.

"I thought about putting the whole band in the eye of a needle, I could have done it."

Other works on display include Jesus Christ with his disciples at the last supper, trees depicting the four seasons and the evolution of man. There are are also sculptures of Frozen characters Elsa and Olaf, UFC superstar Conor McGregor, Bugs Bunny and Mario and Luigi among the intricate pieces.

Willard added: "The message is to never underestimate something small. I was told by my schoolteachers that I would amount to nothing, I would be cleaning out bins because I was stupid. I was used as an advert for failure because I had a learning difficulty."

He cites his mother as one of his biggest inspirations. He said: "She always said you can say a lot but mean nothing, or you can say a few words that mean a lot."

To create such tiny artwork, Willard has to work between heartbeats and become relaxed into a meditative state, as the smallest movement can destroy his work.

The tools used to create the sculpture were personally manipulated and fashioned by Willard to include as a chisel – a shard of diamond; and a syringe as a style of holder.

The hair of an aphid fly was then used to finally paint the sculpture, whilst using the claw of the fly to hold him still whilst applying the paint. The exhibition runs until May 2.

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The myth of EU intelligence sharing

EUROPE abounds with myths and legends and when these are only confined to literature, they are absorbing reading.

However, when myths are spread by governments with a particular agenda to spin, that is quite another matter. I have always thought that the propaganda that being in the EU means that intelligence/security services cooperate, share information and thereby defeat those wishing to reduce us to our basic atoms is total balderdash.

As in France and currently, sadly in Belgium, it is clear that co-ordination and sharing of intelligence across the EU is at best very poor (in Belgium, even between police and intelligence services).

Furthermore, that much-admired EU policy of free movement never mentions free movement of jihadis, bomb-making equipment and arms across Europe. Once inside the porous EU's Mediterranean borders, movement of these murderous psychopaths together with their equipment is made easier.

A M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

Garden city, truth or Lye?

I was surprised and delighted to learn of the possibility that the small Black Country town of my birth, Lye, or The Lye to give it its full name, was to become a garden city.

I was only slightly disappointed to learn that Lye was only going to be part of the new metropolis, along with some portions of Dudley Port and Wolverhampton. Never mind, it all sounds wonderful.

I am not sure where the city centre will be, maybe Pensnett should put itself forward as it has St Mark's Church, known as the cathedral of the Black Country. Will we get a new football team? Where will the councillors and the mayor meet?

We must settle for any improvements going.

Can anybody suggest an appropriate name for this imaginary city?

A BARRETT
Kingswinford

Friday not as Good as it was

HAVE people forgot the meaning of Good Friday?

When I was growing up 40 years ago all that was open was shops selling wet fish and veg.

There were no other shops open – no cinemas, no buses ran till after 4pm, programmes on TV were all religious and not the rubbish that's on these days. Public houses were only open after 6pm.

Every shop nowadays is money grabbing. It was nice walking down the town to do window shopping with most of them shut and most had Easter eggs in and my children would see how many they could find to receive a prize and all money made would go to the local hospital.

Most streets would do an Easter egg hunt and there were prizes.

They do nothing nowadays for the children. They just stay indoors watching TV or playing on computers. We had fun in the 1950s/60s/70s, it's no fun these days for children.

J ROBERTS
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

The commuters are ruining town trade

MY business partner and I, along with two clients, watched as two traffic enforcement officers took photos and gave parking fines to two drivers who had parked in the road in Roseville, Coseley.

Yes, I admit they had parked on yellow lines but anyone who either owns a business in Coseley, or tries to come to Roseville to use the shops, will I'm sure agree that getting a parking space anywhere near is virtually impossible.

And the reason being is because the railway users are now taking over virtually every space available, just leaving the odd one here and there and that's if you can get into the space they have left that they expect someone to be able to wedge into.

If you park on the library one of their workers tells you to get off, or leaves little notes on your car if he doesn't want to tell you face-to-face.

My question is this – why should we pay when we're using the shops and the railway users get off scot-free when they either work miles away or do their shopping elsewhere by train.

I think now it's time the council does something before our shops close due to lack of custom and Coseley becomes just one massive car park.

D BUNCE
Roseville

Catch this art while you can

AS theclosure of our art museum has been confirmed, may I suggest that as many people as possible get to see the room which is given over to Dudley's great artist Percy Shakespeare.

He was a working class boy who managed to become an internationally acclaimed painter before his untimely death in World War Two.

The way his work is displayed in a small room of this iconic building shows the pictures perfectly, and should be seen in their natural place while there is still the opportunity.

R GWILLIAMS
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Speeding car killer is given a longer prison sentence

A SPEEDING motorist who was jailed for killing a pedestrian has seen his sentence increased by appeal court judges.

Omar Tariq, aged 31, of Denton Road, Stourbridge, was driving a Mercedes E250 which struck 39-year-old Peter Price as he was crossing Hagley Road West, in Quinton, in November 2014.

Initially Tariq drove on but then stopped and called 999 to get help for the injured Mr Price. He went on to claim his girlfriend had been driving but later admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

He was jailed for three years and four months at Wolverhampton Crown Court but the term has now been increased to four-and-a-half years at the Court of Appeal by Lord Justice Gross.

Tariq was not insured to drive the car, which was a courtesy vehicle his girlfriend had received, but was 'keen' to get behind the wheel, the judge said.

He drove for about 1.7 miles, hitting speeds of up to 93mph in a 40mph zone, and was travelling at 69mph when he hit Mr Price.

"This was not one of those cases where momentary inattention results in a fatality and the tragic consequences greatly exceed the culpability," said Judge Gross. "To the contrary, the central feature of this case was prolonged speeding, greatly in excess of the limit, and disregarding the great danger to others."

Tariq was jailed in January but his case was back in court after a reference by Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC on the basis his sentence was too soft.

Barrister Paul Jarvis, representing Mr Buckland, argued that aggravating features of the case meant the sentence imposed was 'unduly lenient'.

Lord Justice Gross, sitting with Mr Justice Males and Judge Steven Kramer QC, increased the sentence to four-and-a-half years.

Asbestos led to engineer's death aged 67

A FATHER-OF-THREE died after working in factories with asbestos, an inquest heard.

Surinder Ruprai, from Dudley, had worked in several factories in the Midlands during his career as an engineer from the early 1970s.

The 67-year-old enjoyed keeping fit but discovered he was losing his breath quite easily in 2014.

After going to the doctors he was told he had fluid on his right lung. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma in September that year, an inquest heard. Despite chemotherapy and radiotherapy, he died on March 12.

Concluding a verdict of death by industrial disease, Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "We have heard how he was a proud and loving family man who will be sadly missed.

"As he worked as an engineer in different factories he would have come into contact with asbestos.

"Therefore he died by way of industrial disease."

Me? Old? Says Nellie, aged 107

Nellie Cook, formerly of Halesowen, celebrates her 107th Birthday at Prestwood House in Stourbridge

SHE has seen five reigning monarchs and 25 Prime Ministers come and go. And even though Nell Cook has just turned an incredible 107 years of age, she insists she still 'doesn't feel old'.

The former factory worker, who lived in Halesowen for 25 years, now lives at the Prestwood Nursing Home in Prestwood near Stourbridge, welcomed in her birthday on Saturday with visits from friends and family.

Miss Cook, who is a keen knitter and donates blankets to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge, said: "I don't feel old. But I don't really know what the secret is!"

Staff at the care home baked her a special knitting-themed cake for her big day.

Miss Cook, has outlived all of her five siblings and many of their children too.

She was born Ellen Cook on March 26, 1909, in Birmingham, the daughter of Amelia and Arthur Cook. The family ran a corner shop.

Miss Cook went straight into work after leaving school aged 14. She had five brothers and sisters, Edith, Amelia, Ethel, Fred and Arthur.

She moved to Prestwood in May after a fall, having previously spent 25 years in Halesowen.

Miss Cook said: "I'd like to thank all the staff here for what they do and also those from Lyttleton House who came and brought presents for me."

Miss Cook commented on how much society had changed. "The way people live their lives now is different to when I was younger. Things are so much quicker now," she said.

Congestion as major route goes one-way

MOTORISTS in Stourbridge face at least another week of roadworks chaos with a main road heading into the town being a temporary one-way route.

From Friday traffic has not been able to exit the Stourbridge ring road onto the A491, meaning motorists face detours in what is already a notoriously congested area.

National Grid is replacing gas mains at High Street, Amblecote. The work will result in the road becoming one-way from Wollaston Road. Motorists will be able to get onto the ring road via Amblecote but traffic will not be able to go in the opposite direction.

Lengthy diversions have been set up which will mean drivers heading north towards Wordsley will have to head down Bridgnorth Road, onto Wollaston's High Street and join Wollaston Road before finally being able to get back onto the A491.

It is likely to mean a major headache for people heading out of Stourbridge at rush hour.

The work was due to begin over the Easter weekend but National Grid said it expects the work to continue until at least April 10.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said: "We apologise for any disruption this causes for motorists but we can assure them that the work is essential."

Warehouse conversion plan to create 16 flats

A DERELICT warehouse near Stourbridge will be converted into flats under new plans.

A total of 16 flats would be created on the former Billinge Holdings site in Careless Green, Wollescote, which has been empty since 2010.

The plans have been recommended for approval with a final decision expected to be made by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday, April 4.

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£64k benefits fraud couple ran flower shop

A COUPLE from Kingswinford, who swindled £64,000 in disability benefits, were caught on CCTV lifting heavy goods at their florist shop.

Arthur McCarroll claimed that it took him as long as four minutes to walk three metres, while his wife Susan claimed she needed help getting in and out of chairs.

But footage obtained by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) investigators shows her comfortably carrying hanging baskets filled with soil and flowers and him loading heavy boxes into a car. Mrs McCarroll, 65, was also a regular trader at car boot sales.

Prosecutor Maxine McIntosh told Dudley Magistrates Court that Susan McCarroll had claimed £35,040 since 2002 and was in receipt of disability living allowance from 1997 on the grounds she was severely disabled.

Susan and Arthur McCarroll leave Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting fraud

Ailments

"In her self assessment claim form, she stated that she had high mobility restriction and needs. But she failed to declare to the DWP when her need for regular care ceased.

"On the claim form she submitted in 2003 she claimed she was unable to walk. It said she was affected by numerous ailments. She couldn't walk far without discomfort and had to be with someone when she was outside due to the danger that she may fall. She needed help getting out of her chair, getting in and out of bed, attending to her toilet needs. She referred to her husband as being her personal carer."

Miss McIntosh added: "She was involved in the day to day running of the flower business. She regularly attended car boot sales as a trader. During surveillance, she was seen to be going about her day to day duties at the flower shop without problems. She was also filmed at a car boot sale, and her capabilities and mobility seemed to be much improved."

Of Arthur McCaroll, 58, who claimed £29,203, the prosecutor said: "He was claiming disability living allowance, incapacity benefit and employment support allowance. His claim stated he could only walk for three metres and it took him two to four minutes to do that. It said he was in danger of falling. It also said he was a high risk heart patient. Two witnesses said they regularly go into the shop and they had never seen him need help."

The pair, from Larch Road, Kingswinford, both pleaded guilty to fraud.

Mr James McGowan, defending Susan McCarroll, said: "She accepts there has been some improvement and she should have declared her change in circumstances." Mr Mandeep Gill, defending Mr McCarroll, said he was of previous good character.

He was sentenced to 36 weeks in prison suspended for two years. She received a 26-week sentence suspended for two years. Each were given a six-week curfew.

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Diversity awareness TV award for Lenny

SIR Lenny Henry has been awarded a surprise fellowship of the Royal Television Society at its Programme Awards for his work raising awareness of the need for diversity in the industry.

The Dudley-born comedian and actor was also presented with the Judges' Award in recognition of his commitment to increasing minority representation in the industry.

He won particular praise for his 2014 Bafta Television lecture on the topic. That saw him criticise British TV hits including Broadchurch, Miranda and Midsomer Murders for being 'too white'.

He said the shows had fewer black actors than similar US programmes and were not representative of modern Britain and also warned that British black actors may leave the UK to find work in America.

Accepting the two awards, Sir Lenny said: "I'm so truly humbled by this, thank you so much for the fellowship. I'm truly hopeful that this award is a pan-industry acknowledgement that diversity must be at the heart of our industry now and most importantly in the future."

Aldi bosses looking out for 50 new apprentices

ALDI is looking to recruit 50 apprentices in the West Midlands this year with more than a dozen shops in the Black Country to benefit.

The company will have more than 700 apprenticeship vacancies for branches across the UK, as part of its apprenticeship scheme.

In the West Midlands, there will be vacancies in Dudley, Netherton, Brierley Hill and Halesowen. Apprentices will also be recruited at shops in Oldbury, Stourbridge, Wednesfield and Wolverhampton .

By Lisa Wright

Applications for the scheme opened earlier this month to coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship Week, and will close in October.

Marius Manolescu, regional managing director at Aldi, said: "The Aldi Apprenticeship Scheme has been hugely successful in delivering hundreds of roles for dedicated people nationwide in the four years since we launched the scheme.

Opportunity

"We're now looking for a record number of candidates to join one of the most dynamic and fast-growing retailers in the UK, with a proven track record in developing and progressing its staff.

"Aldi's apprentices are given real responsibility from day one, with the opportunity to learn about the business from a grassroots level, and we expect our recruits to progress to a management position with us."

Successful apprentices will be trained in all aspects of retail management during their three-year course, which features a mixture of in-store and theory work.

The scheme offers store assistant training in year one and store management training in years two and three with a salary of £5.40 per hour rising to £7.85 per hour.

Apprentices will also receive a Retail Apprenticeship Level 3 qualification.

People can apply for the scheme online at www.aldirecruitment.co.uk/apprentice website.

The German supermarket giant announced last month that it will create 5,000 jobs and open 80 new shops this year under expansion plans.

In the West Midlands, Aldi is bringing new shops to Lye and the is also moving onto the former site of Dudley's King Arthur pub, which was demolished to make way for the store.

Plans have also been revealed by the firm for a store to be built in Great Barr, which would create around 40 jobs.

The firm said it would be creating almost 350 jobs in the West Midlands.

Failure to cut beer tax criticised by MEP

WEST Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge has criticised the failure to cut beer duty as another nail in the coffin of the pub industry.

The chancellor froze duty on beer and cider in the budget, despite calls from within the industry to cut it. The UK has the second highest rate in Europe.

According to the British Beer and Pub Association, BBPA, almost 20,000 pubs have been lost since 1982.

The West Midlands UKIP MEP, who is also a councillor for Sedgley, said: "The chancellor has missed a golden opportunity to rescue a struggling industry which provides many jobs, particularly for our younger people.

"Why should beer duty in the UK be 13 times higher than that of Germany? Failure to slash the beer tax in this budget is another nail in the coffin of the pub industry."

UK drinkers pay 52p per pint in tax, one of Europe's highest rates, while Germany pays only 4p tax per pint.

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Bourbon soaked southern sounds

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

TEXAN outfit White Denim deliver the kind of soulful southern rock that ruled supreme on TV's The Old Grey Whistle Test back in the mid-1970s.

Think Allman Bros, Little Feat, Lynyrd Skynyrd but add more contemporary influences such as The Black Keys and Kings of Leon as this Austin band offer a sixth album, **Stiff**, that should win many new fans.

Opening track Had 2 Know echoes classic rock with it's Reelin' In The Years guitar on a riff that sounds like a revamp of the Rockford Files theme. Ha Ha Ha Ha (Yeah) has a real swagger with a Led Zep-like riff, while Holda You (I'm Psycho) has a strong Creedence Clearwater Revival feel.

Singer guitarist James Petralli showcases his sweet soul vocal on the aptly entitled Take It Easy (Ever After Lasting Love) and on the swampy (I'm The One) Big Big Fun. Real Deal Momma pays homage to the organ-led 60s Texan beat sound of Sir Douglas Quintet and Mirrored In Reverse boasts a monster southern boogie riff.

It's retro sounding stuff but if you like your music bourbon soaked and hickory smoked, this is sure to please.

Talking retro, **Teddy Thompso**n – son of British folk legends Richard and Linda – teams up with female American singer **Kelly Jones** for harmonious duets in the style of the Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly on **Little Window**s.

Highlights include country ballads Better At Lying and You Took My Future, honky tonk chugger Only Fooling and rockabilly number You Can't Call Me Baby. At their best, the duo are reminiscent of Emmylou Harris and Gram Parsons in the early 70s. Teddy Thompson & Kelly Jones are in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on May 4.

White Denim – their sound is a modern update of classic 70s southern rock

Welsh singer-songwriter **Meilyr Jones**, formerly of the band Race Horses, returns with an English language album, **2013**, inspired by a trip to Rome. His baroque pop is akin to such mavericks as The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon, Kevin Rowland and sometime collaborator Gruff Rhys, of cult Welsh band Super Furry Animals.

Highlights include the whimsical Don Juan with its flutes and harpsichord-like keyboards, the philosophical musings of Love and the Dexys meet Primal Scream stomp of How To Recognise A Work of Art.

Meilyr Jones is in concert at Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on April 27.

London-based **Rosie Lowe** creates an impressive synth-soul album on her sophisticated debut **Control**, lyrically dealing with the harsh and sometimes brutal realities of love and relationships from a female perspective. Fidgety electronics are kept in check within lush soundscapes that enhance Lowe's smooth vocal with dreamlike atmospheres. Lowe also produced her album, alongside Kwabs and Jessie Ware producer Dave Okuma. Check her out if you like The XX.

Quirky Japanese pop-punk female trio **Shonen Knife** celebrate their 35th anniversary with a typically cartoonish punk offering on **Adventure**, including the Ramones-inspired Rock 'N' Roll T-Shirt (it sounds like Rock 'n' roll Rhodesia). Shonen Knife are at Birmingham's Academy 3 venue on April 16.

Three years on from debut Absolute Zero, Irish outfit **Little Green Cars** return with a captivating second album of emotional semi-acoustic rock, **Ephemera**.

Featuring the plaintive Neil Young-like tones of Stevie Appleby and more strident Annie Lennox-like vocal of Faye O'Rourke, this Dublin band specialise in stripped back emotive songs, warm harmonies and introspection. The moody What Women Do is a fine showcase for O'Rourke, as is The Garden of Death for Appleby. Check them out if you like Fleetwood Mac or Crowded House.

Russians deliver a traditional classic

Swan Lake, Wolverhampton Grand

THE most famous of all ballets was performed to a packed house at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as The Russian Ballet State Ballet of Siberia delivered a solid, very traditional version of Swan Lake.

It was refreshing to hear Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music performed by the company's own orchestra, under the baton of Alexander Yudasin, as the Krasnoyarsk-based troupe are one of the very few dance companies to tour with orchestra.

The costumes and sets were a little old fashioned but traditional values and heritage are part of the Russian character.

Sergei Bobrov's company are very well drilled, extremely strong and athletic but lacking somewhat in conveying emotion.

Even with up to 25 dancers on stage, the performers were so precise in their positions on the relatively small stage that it never looked too crowded or at risk of a swan pile-up.

Mana Kuwabara was excellent in the dual role of bewitched swan princess Odette and her wicked alter-ego Odile. With her flashing eyes and lightning fast pirouettes, it was no surprise that her glamorous black swan persona seduced Ivan Karnaukhov's Prince Siegfried.

Leon Burakowski

Ellie will be missed by the fans

Ellie Goulding, Barclaycard Arena, B'ham

PRINCIPAL support John Newman's Calvin Harris-infused Blame had the crowd pumped up even before the main attraction. Goulding rose to the stage on a hydraulic platform. With dubious fashion sense of shorts with Doc Marten boots, attention soon turned to her melodic voice but she appeared to be straining with Holding On For Life, despite a heartfelt delivery.

The set was only four songs in when she had the crowd bouncing with another Calvin Harris collaboration, Outside. From here on in, Goulding grew into the performance.

The Hereford-born 29-year-old is planning a self-imposed exile at the end of this Delirium tour. She will be missed. Songs from third album Delirium included a beautiful acoustic version of Devotion and an up tempo Codes, as well as previous hits Halcyon, Figure Eight and Explosions among them. The encore began with her version of Elton John's Your Song.

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS

'We're all in this together' says David Carlyle's mayor, left, with Richard Clews at the Rep

This frenetic farce passes its inspection with flying colours

The Government Inspector, Birmingham Rep

LET'S hope that this fast-paced farce, directed by the Rep's artistic director Roxana Silbert, gets a life beyond its short UK tour – because it was the most eye-wateringly hilarious night in the theatre I have enjoyed since the all-conquering West End hit One Man Two Guvnors.

Adapted by David Harrower from the 19th century Russian play by Nikolai Gogol, this comedy is about the panic that ensues among corrupt civic leaders of a small Russian town when they learn a Government inspector is secretly visiting them in their 'beyond the back of beyond' settlement. Things get even more chaotic when they mistake a boastful waster from the big city for the all-important civil servant.

Made as part of the Ramps On The Moon project, the cast of disabled and non-disabled actors created an excellent ensemble.

Highlights of this dark comic treat included David Carlyle's frenetic performance as the mayor, brining to mind both Leonard Rossiter's slippery Rigsby and John Cleese in full-on bonkers Basil mode. As a pompous posh chancer, Robin Morrissey recalled Richard E Grant as vainglorious Withnail.

Leon Burakowski

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Strictly Stunning

Salsa dancer Norma's new smile would get a 'ten from Len'

Norma Aston – all my confidence is back

A PICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the cameras and smart phones did their work.

But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years, but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like Strictly Come Dancing, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted.

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman who had a long-standing problem resolved by Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell [Dip CDT RCS(Eng)] with an implant retained over-denture."

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees.

"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told to go away and think things through before making a decision."

North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it.

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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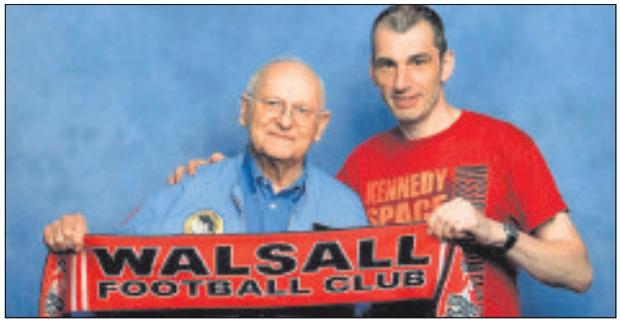
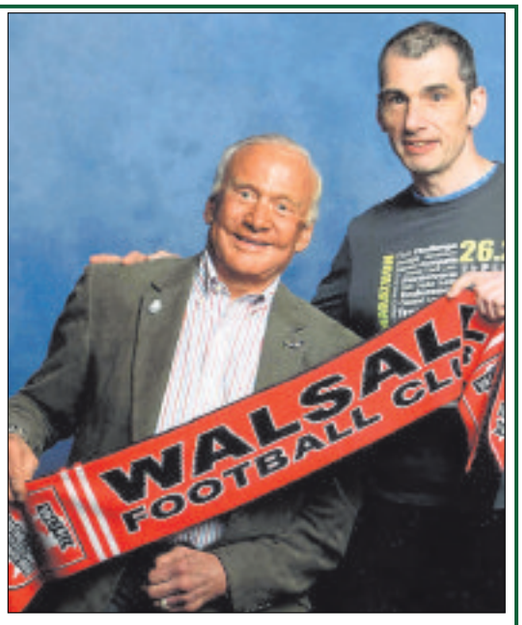
Charles Duke, who was the 10th to walk on the lunar surface

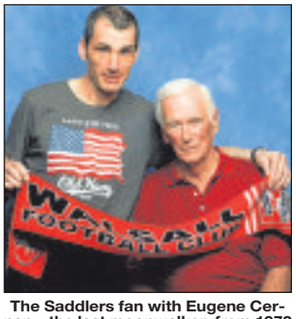
Apollo 14's Ed Mitchell, number six out of the remaining eight ex-astronauts



Alan Bean, fourth on the moon in Apollo 12 and he was involved in Skylab



Mark with Buzz Aldrin, now 86, the second man on the moon



The Saddlers fan with Eugene Cernan – the last moonwalker, from 1972

Fan's over the moon

A SADDLERS super fan's mission to get every man who has walked on the moon to pose with a Walsall scarf is almost complete.

Mark Dabbs was told by friends that his plan was 'sheer lunacy' but persisted in the hope that one day he could say 'the Saddlers have conquered the moon'.

In all, 12 astronauts completed moon-walks, eight of who are still alive and Mark has already 'scarfed' six of them. He said: "I'm a Black Country football fan with an ambition that's simply out of this world. I am on a quest to bestow the handful of astronauts who have walked the moon's surface with Walsall FC scarves."

Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, Alan Bean, Eugene Cernan, Pete Conrad, Charles Duke, James Irwin, Edgar Mitchell, Harrison 'Jack' Schmitt, David Scott, Alan Shepherd and John Young are the 12 astronauts who have walked on the moon.

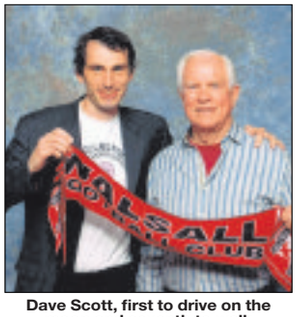
Mr Dabbs claims Aldrin was the first of the six to become a Saddlers fan and he has since been joined by Bean, Cernan, Duke, Mitchell and Scott. He is now tracking down the final two moonwalkers, John Young and Jack Schmitt, to complete his unusual collection.

Irwin, Armstrong, Scott and Conrad all passed away before Mr Dabbs had the chance to drape them with his now famous Saddlers scarf.

But it's not just astronauts Mr Dabbs has been after as he released a book last year entitled 'Travels With My Scarf' where he travelled around the world attempting to convert famous celebrities into Saddlers fans.

He managed to snare Joan Collins, Leslie Nielsen, fight legend Roberto Duran, Star Trek's William Shatner and even boxing superstar Mike Tyson.

The book was launched to raise money for St Giles Hospice based in Staffordshire.



Dave Scott, first to drive on the moon and seventh to walk

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Shop girl turned singing star says YOLO

Beth Sherburn, of Lower Gornal, was discovered while working at Debenhams in the Merry Hill shopping centre

FROM working in Debenhams to singing on stage at Wembley Arena, it's been a whirlwind few years for singer Beth Sherburn.

Now the 25-year-old from Lower Gornal is about to release her new single and star om a headline show at a West Midlands rock venue.

Beth releases her latest single 'YOLO' on May 27, and is excited about what the year holds for her.

She will be performing at the Hare & Hounds pub in Kings Heath on Sunday, April 10, and has been busy in the studio working on her album alongside producers Ciaron Bell and Chelcee Grimes. They have worked with the likes of Kylie Minogue and The Saturdays, a group she went on tour with in 2014.

She said: "I'm really excited about having the chance to perform locally in such a great venue. I love music and there is nothing better than performing live, this is what I do it all for."

She will be going on to perform in Glasgow, London and Manchester.

Beth said said she was thrilled about the new single YOLO – which stands for You Only Live Once.

She added: "I hope everyone enjoys the new single, it's really all about living your life to the fullest and making the most of it. Musically, I feel like I'm in a really good place. Now being in my mid-twenties and with everything I've learned and gone through over the years, I feel I've grown as a musician and a person.

"I feel like this is going to be a good year. Hopefully I'll be involved in some festivals this summer and performing as much as I can."

Working in Debenhams at Merry Hill shopping centre in 2012, she was overheard singing by top music producer John McLaughlin, who went on to sign her to a £250,000 record deal.

Restoring park to its former glory

Clent Hills Rotary Club

HEAD of Landscape at Hagley Hall, Joe Hawkins, described the work he has been carrying out on the restoration of the historic Grade I listed Hagley Park.

Joe has been working for three years in pursuit of Lord Cobham's dream to return the parkland to its 18th century glory.

His excellent presentation showed how the plan commenced by George, the first Lord Lyttelton, was a forerunner of a new concept of natural picturesque landscape design which contrasted with the layout of formal gardens of earlier centuries.

Within the original hillside land form, new lakes and cascades were formed, and walkways created through areas of woodland and open spaces. This new natural parkland garden attracted worldwide attention, and was frequently visited by poets John Milton and Alexander Pope.

Over time, lakes had become silted up, building features almost completely lost, woodland altered naturally and pathways overgrown.

An archived plan of Hagley Estate dated 1825 has formed the basis for the restoration work but the careful research and detailed site investigation by Joe and his team have revealed some exciting original cascade features.

Giving a vote of thanks, Keith Sprason said the presentation had taken them on an enthralling journey from 'Paradise Lost' to 'Paradise Regained'.

Floral artists ensure Easter is in bloom

The Floral Arts sub-group of the Tuesday Club show off their Easter creations

Sedgley Morning TWG

EASTER was the theme for the members of the Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild Floral Arts sub-group of the Tuesday Club.

The group meets once a month where members enjoy a variety of crafts, including flower arranging, card-making and recently jewellery making.

Members can also just drop in for a knit and natter and a drink.

The main guild meeting takes place at 10am on the first Thursday of the month at All Saints Parish Hall, Vicar Street, Sedgley.

The next meeting will be on the April 7 when Chris Smith, local historian will give a talk entitled 'Made in The Black Country'. Visitors will be very welcome.

Tragic tale of misfortune

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

THE March meeting was chaired by vice-chairman Ann Rogers at The Lodge – 32 members gave visitor Jean Whitehouse a warm welcome on her first visit.

Once again the meal was excellent and so was speaker Chris Smith, the editor of the Village Voice Magazine.

He explained how his interest in history had led him to start the magazine so he could record the remarkable story of the Beardsmore family. It was a truly inspiring but tragic tale of a mining family who survived flooded mines and explosions before deciding to emigrate to New Zealand. Unfortunately misfortune followed them as four of them were later killed in another explosion.

He then held everyone's attention as he told several unbelievable stories, and members had to guess which one was a lie. No one guessed correctly. Even the claim that Jack the Ripper came from Kingswinford and that a Dudley vet had made boots for an elephant and false teeth for a cow and dog were true.

The next luncheon will be on Friday, April 8 at 12.30pm. The speaker will be Adrian Barrett on Life and Death in Dudley Limestone Mines. On May 13 Jessie and Jo Powell will bring jewellery and collectables.

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£45k for safe place to cross

A 'PUFFIN' crossing, costing £45,000, will be installed on a busy Netherton road near a school after residents expressed concerns for children's safety.

The signalised pedestrian crossing will be created on Swan Street not far from Hillcrest School and Community College.

Bosses said that pupils had been the 'driving force' behind the campaign to install a safer way for them to cross the traffic-heavy road that runs from the busy Cinder Bank island.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our main concern was the for the children crossing the road coming back and forth from school.

"It is a very busy road and so to be able to ensure that the children were safe when crossing was our main driving force."

Nursery park plan wrangle

AROUND 80 pupils could be accommodated at a nursery looking to expand onto parkland.

Residents fear the proposed extension to the Netherton Park Nursery School and Kindergarten site encroaches on part of Netherton Park.

Planners will decided on the proposal for the building off Arch Hill Street in coming weeks. Members of the Friends of Netherton Park have been campaigning against the plan.

Satisfaction at prison term for cowboy roofer conman

A COWBOY roofer who tried to rip off an elderly couple in Netherton has started a two-year prison sentence.

By Richard Guttridge

Lyndon Pardoe targeted Leonard and Sheila Walker, who were both in their 80s, upping his original quote by more than double to almost £10,000 and then carrying out shoddy work on their roof.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Pardoe had worked on the couple's home in Netherton in 2013 before approaching them again a year later claiming a tile was loose on their roof.

After gaining their trust, he then told them they needed the whole roof replacing. He originally quoted £3,800 for the job, which then rocketed to £9,800.

But Pardoe's con was rumbled when the couple's daughter became suspicious.

By the time Trading Standards had been alerted, he had removed most of the old roof and began fitting a new one.

A chartered building surveyor inspected the roof and found the work was so bad that his work had to be abandoned.

Speaking after Pardoe was sentenced, Susan Sabin said her parents were left feeling 'foolish and embarrassed'.

Pardoe, aged 51, of Hazledene Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, who was trading as Multicare Roofing and Building Services, was jailed after being convicted of fraud and misleading and aggressive commercial practice, following a trial.

Mr Walker died in August last year just six months after celebrating his diamond wedding anniversary.

Judge Julian Taylor said that while Pardoe's actions could not have directly contributed to Mr Walker's death, the roof incident had a huge impact on the victim in the final months of his life. Judge Taylor said: "I have no doubt his final 18 months were spent concerned about what had happened."

The couple's son-in-law Keith Sabin said: "He was so careful with money. It really hit him hard." Mrs Sabin added: "We are glad he got a custodial sentence – the longer the better."

Susan and Keith Sabin are pleased cowboy roofer Lyndon Pardoe got a prison sentence after duping Susan's elderly parents

More than 20 homes on the way

TWENTY-FOUR homes are earmarked for former industrial land in Netherton.

Proposals for the Bradney Chain and Engineering Company site in Quarry Road have been recommended for approval for Dudley planners.

The outline application sets out plans to demolish an existing house and disused industrial building.

The committee are minded to give it permission subject to the signing of a legal agreement.

An officer's report said the 'positive' development would help housing growth and regeneration.

Meanwhile, a day centre in Netherton will be converted to a house, after plans were given the green light. The two-storey former Age Concern centre in Cradley Road will be changed to a house with six bedrooms in total.

From Bard to verse at show

SONGS and music from Shakespeare's plays are to be performed in Netherton in May.

Touring company The Night Watch is visiting Netherton Arts Centre in Northfield Road on May 6 at 7.30pm to present From Bard to Verse.

The performance in period dress will use such instruments as crumhorns, tabors, and bray harps.

Tickets for the Netherton performance can be booked on 0750 426 9855.

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MONDAY

Rowley Regis
Dudley Golf Club, Turners Hill
From 28th December, 7pm
Tel Meryl : 07702 237885

Sedgley
St Chads & All Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road
From 4th April 5pm and 7pm
Tel: Gaz 07517 675787

Wollaston
The Ridge Primary School
Gregory Road 7pm
Tel Laura : 07999 521993

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 5pm & 7pm
Tel Ian : 07970 147592

Amblecote
Amblecote Christian Centre, Brettell Lane
9.30am
Tel: 07999 521993

Netherton
Cole Street Methodist Church
Cole Strett 5.30pm and 7pm
Tel Heather : 07729 105659

Thorns Primary School
Thorns Road, Quarry Bank
5pm and 7pm
Tel Lisa: 07986 673899

TUESDAY

Gornal Wood
Himley Road Methodist Church
Himley Road (Large Car Park at rear via chapel walk) 9.30am
Tel Becki: 07986 407934

Norton
Gig Mill Primary School
The Broadway
7pm
Tel: kelly 07857 244854

Wordsley
Richardson Hall
Lawnswood Road 10am
Tel Ian : 07970147592

Woodsetton
Bramford Primary School
Park Road 6.00pm and 7.45pm
Tel Louise : 07967 624573

Gornal
Zoar Methodist Church
Abbey Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue : 01384 211425

Wollaston
St James C of E Primary School
Kingsway 7pm
Tel Jo : 07725 987340

Netherton
Cole Street Methodist Church
Cole Street 9.30am
Tel Heather : 07729 105659

Rowley Regis
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Kenton : 07982 408088

Dudley (Wrensnest)
Wrensnest Community Centre
Summer Road 10am
Tel Louise : 07967 624573

Norton
The Scout Hut
Kempton Way off Heath Farm Road 9.30am
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315

Amblecote
Peters Hill Primary School
Peters Hill Road 6pm and 7.30pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

Bromley / Kingswinford
Dingle Community Centre
Madeley Road 5 pm & 7 pm
Tel Diane : 07974 657589

WEDNESDAY

Kingswinford
British Legion
Summerhill Road 3.30pm
5pm and 6.30pm
Tel Ann : 07787 186259

Brockmoor
Brockmoor Community Centre
Pensnett Road 9.30am and 11.30am
Tel Ian : 01384 827999

Kinver
Brindley Heath Junior School
Enville Road 7pm
Tel John: 01384 423616

Amblecote
Amblecote Primary School
School Drive 5.30pm and 7.15pm
Tel Caroline : 01562 888315

Netherton
Hill Crest School and Community College
Simms Lane 7pm
Tel Heather : 07729 105659

Tividale
St Michaels Church
Tividale Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Kenton : 07982 408088

Old Hill
Holy Trinity Church
Halesowen Road 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Sarah: 07815 071982

Stourbridge / Oldswinford
St Marys Church Hall
Rectory Road 4pm 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Kerry : 01384 833812

Brierley Hill
Withymoore Primary School
Gayfield Avenue 7pm
Tel Lynne : 01384 455427

Lower Gornal
The Straits Primary School
Milton Cresant 7pm
Tel Marion : 07887 594344

Upper Gornal
Upper Gornal Methodist Church
Spills Meadow off Kent Street
9.30am
Tel Lynn : 07963 539384

Dudley / Upper Gornal
Bishop Milner RC School
Burton Road 7pm
Tel Sue : 01902 882323

THURSDAY

Pensnett
Community Centre, High Street
From 7th April
Tel: Gill 01384 830929

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 5pm and 7pm
Tel:Sarah 07837 950797

Stourbridge
St Thomas Church Hall
Market Street 10am
Tel John : 01384 423616

Sedgley / Upper Gornal
St Chads and all Saints Social Club
High Holborn, Dudley Road 5pm and 7pm
Tel Sue : 01902 882323

Brierley Hill
Nine Locks Community Centre
Hill Street 9.15am
Tel Jill : 01384 830929

Dudley
Central Methodist Church
Cross Street 10am 12noon
Tel:Sue 01384 211425

Hawbush Brierley Hill
Oakfield Centre
Brettell Lane 5pm and 7pm
Tel John : 01384 423616

Stourbridge
Greenfield Primary School
Hill Street 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel Marie : 01384 893001

FRIDAY

Sedgley
Sedgley Community Centre, Ladies Walk
(Access via the Priory) 9.30 am
Tel Gareth: 07517 675787

Stourbridge
The Bonded Warehouse
Canal Street 9.30am
Tel Jo: 07725 987340

Kingswinford
St Marys Church Hall
The Villiage 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sue : 07825 354224

Rowley Regis
Rowley Regis Disability Centre
26 Rowley Village 9.30am
Tel Kenton : 07982 408088

SATURDAY

Lower Gornal
Roberts Primary School
Robert Street 8.30am and 10.30am
Tel Sarah : 07837 950797

Hawbush / Brierley Hill
Oakfield Community Centre
Brettell Lane 7.30am, 8.30am and 11.15am
Tel Jo : 07725 987340

Oldbury
Portway Lifestyle Centre
Newbury Lane 9am and 11am
Tel Kenton : 07982 408088

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One of the pictures of the then Princess Elizabeth at Castle Bromwich in 1949

Hazel seen as a young woman during the 1940s

A group of women, including Hazel, back, third from left, at the E&S in the 1940s

The entrance hall at the Express & Star's head office

The printing presses in action at Queen Street, Wolverhampton, bringing the news to a 1940s readership

Hazel's birthday hope for extensive digital archive

MEMORY LANE

Report by Nick Humphreys

A FORMER newspaper librarian who was responsible for cataloguing thousands of historic photographs celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

And she believes there would be no better present than to see the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star's latest photo archive campaign be successful – so generations to come can learn about the area and enjoy the nostalgia of looking back on iconic moments in time.

Hazel Jones, who lives in Penn, worked at the newspaper's HQ in Queen Street, Wolverhampton for seven years from when she finished school in 1942. Her duties included storing and maintaining an archive of photographs that today encompasses one million images dating back more than a century.

Now, she is backing the E&S's bid to digitise the collection, preserving them for generations to come. The plan, set up with the university of Wolverhampton and WAVE – the museums, galleries and archives of Wolverhampton, has been awarded development funding of £59,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding is used in order to develop plans to seek a full grant for the project.

Hazel told the Express & Star of her hopes for the bid, and how she realised: "I think it is a really important project. I'd like to see it happen. It's a historical collection which has been gathered over such a long time. Hopefully the bid is successful and people can enjoy the images for years to come."

The collection has an estimated one million prints stored, covering events and people featured in the pages of the newspaper during the 20th Century. They document around100 years of Wolverhampton life and the history the city and its people collectively share.

She said: "I met lots of people doing that job, all sorts of people throughout the building, right from the owners down. I was very much a junior member of staff.

"In the early days, a lot of the photographs weren't dated or captioned. It was only as I carried on with the job over the years that I realised how important these photographs could be for people to look back on."

After the Express & Star, Hazel moved down to London to work for Mirror Group newspapers, before returning north to Wolverhampton after retiring.

Both jobs were a dream for Hazel, who has a keen interest in photography herself. To mark her birthday, she celebrated by having tea with friends.

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "Photographers from the Express & Star have been on hand to photograph events and communities across the Black Country for more than a century.

"This collection documents the people who make this region so great and the history they share. They tell hundreds of thousands of stories."

Hazel Jones, the former E&S photo librarian, at work

Hazel seen visiting the archives at the Express & Star a couple of years ago, with some photos she brought in

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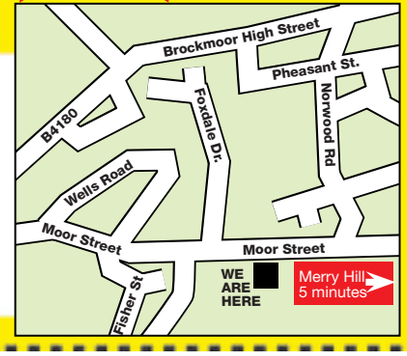

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, March 31, 2016

Old luggage evokes the golden age of travelling

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry and Phillips

THERE is nothing quite so evocative of travelling in days gone by as pieces of vintage luggage.

No matter how battered and worn they are, they still conjure up images of rail travel in its heyday, car trips to the seaside, ocean voyages aboard a luxury liner and even early plane flights.

Today they look great displayed in the home and always provide a talking point – plus they offer extra storage space.

Old suitcases and trunks are especially of interest if they still feature labels from trips in days of yore and if they are personalised with name and address details.

Look out for hat boxes, vanity cases, carpet bags (think Mary Poppins) and sets of matching luggage – even blanket boxes used for travel purposes, especially those with little brass name plates.

Smaller items will include travel perfume sets, complete with little glass bottles, and gentlemen's leather grooming bags.

Any item of luggage carrying 'famous' labels, linking it to a voyage with White Star or Cunard for example, will be of great interest to collectors so if you are keen to buy be prepared to spend quite a bit.

It is still possible to find luggage that once belonged to ocean liner personnel, such as seaman's trunks, again these may prove pricey but they look terrific in almost any room.

And of course there are maker names to look out for, such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Prada.

Louis Vuitton founded his legendary company in 1845, opening a packing and box-making workshop in Paris and going on to make stackable trunks suitable for rail travel.

He quickly became successful, expanding his workshop and earning a bronze medal at Napoleon's Exposition Universelle in 1867.

In 1872 he introduced a red and beige striped canvas trunk, sold as a luxury item, and the rest is history. His son Georges took over the company in 1892, creating the company's famous logo of flowers, diamonds and circles, and in 1914 the Louis Vuitton building became the biggest travel goods store in the world with Coco Chanel as its patron, and travel bags that remain popular today such as the Steamer bag, the Keepall and the Papillon were manufactured.

Now a worldwide company, Prada began life in Milan in 1913, when Mario Prada started to produce shoes, handbags and trunks.

The famous Prada suitcase was initially manufactured from walrus skin but as travel by plane became more popular lighter bags were needed.

The company went into decline during the 1970s but was revitalised in 1979 when Miuccia Prada became head of the family business, introducing luxury tote bags and backpacks, and now of course the name Prada is synonymous with high-fashion luggage.

Guccio Gucci worked as a young man at the Savoy Hotel in London during the 1920s and was very impressed by the high-quality luggage owned by guests – so much so that he returned to his native Italy to start a small luggage company in Florence.

He made luggage and other luxury leather travel goods, expanding during the 1930s and using canvas rather than leather when the latter was scarce during the war.

Once again now a famous worldwide product, Gucci luggage was especially popular during the 1960s when it was much favoured by the so-called 'jet set'!

As always, check the condition of vintage luggage before you buy; any damage should be reflected in the price.

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days for sale items only every Wednesday 10am until 4pm at their Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth. Auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

It's hard to handle retailers' lack of care over bags

STYLE FOCUS

With Janet Timmis

THIS week I went shopping with my mother to buy an outfit for our son's – her grandson's – wedding.

She was handed the garments without a carrier bag, unless of course she wanted to pay for one! A high-priced outfit was folded and pushed across the counter towards us; the same happened with the hat and bag. I was unhappy: surely clothing companies can supply a lovely branded, paper carrier that is exempt from the plastic carrier rule?

It made me wonder how many people are actually aware of the rules. The government website **www.gov.uk** states that 5 pence must be charged for a bag that is unused, plastic and up to 70 microns thick (a micron is one thousandth of a millimeter), has handles, an opening and isn't sealed.

A retailer is not required by law to charge for woven plastic bags or paper bags but can voluntarily choose to, and a business is also not required to charge for a bag if they have fewer than 250 full-time employees. You as a customer are now expected to carry a reusable bag. A bag for life is a bag sold for more than 5 pence, reusable and should be replaced free of charge if returned to the store when worn out.

You should not be charged for a plastic bag when you buy uncooked fish, meat and their products, as well as unwrapped food for animal or human consumption, unwrapped loose seeds, flowers, bulbs, roots and stems. The list also includes goods contaminated by soil (e.g potatoes), unwrapped blades/knives, prescription medicines, anything used for a service (dry cleaning) and free promotional materials.

The single-use carrier charge is to reduce the amount of plastic carriers causing danger to animals and littering the environment, and the revenue collected from their sale goes to good causes.

This is a good thing, but are businesses who are charging when they are not required by law to do so pushing their customers towards online shopping? It is part of the good service that would retain our patronage to offer an alternative. Retailers could take a leaf out of Primark's book with their free, branded, paper carriers.

We see the words 'ethical' and 'recycling' everywhere, we are all aware of the need to protect the earth. Oxfam states that 350,000 tonnes of clothing goes to landfill each year, which amounts to 9,000 items every five minutes. An average household owns approximately £4,000 of clothes according to WRAP charity and 30 per cent of those items have not been worn for over a year.

We all need to consider how much we buy, and how we get rid of our unwanted clothes in this throwaway society and consider what can be produced from our recycled rubbish.

Plastic bottles can be made into fibre for fleece fabric, charity shops gain income for good causes from the clothing we discard, and the 'cash for clothes' businesses send clothing to poorer countries to be reworn. Consider 'make, do and mend' – it is the creative amendment of existing clothing to make up-to-date garments. It is practical and great fun.

Perhaps we should learn to become a giveaway society rather than a throwaway society.

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Savings shake-up: how will it help our pockets?

Report by Simon Stone

A BIG savings shake-up is on its way – so how will it help you? Here we take a look at what the future holds for our finances.

With the Bank of England base rate having stood at a rock bottom low for seven years, the returns on offer have been paltry.

By March 2016, the average easy access cash ISA was paying a rate of just 1.05%, compared with 1.77% in March 2009, according to financial information website, **Moneyfacts.co.uk**

But there is some fresh hope for savers in the form of a new personal savings allowance, which will come into force on April 6, to coincide with the new tax year.

WHAT IS THE PERSONAL SAVINGS ALLOWANCE?

The new allowance means most people will no longer pay tax on the interest they earn on their savings pots.

Banks and building societies will stop deducting tax from account interest.

If you are a basic rate taxpayer you will be able to earn up to £1,000 in savings interest tax-free, while higher rate taxpayers will be able to earn up to £500.

WHAT COUNTS AS SAVINGS INTEREST UNDER THE NEW RULES?

Savings income includes account interest from bank and building society accounts, as well as accounts with some other providers, such as credit unions and Treasury-backed National Savings and Investments (NS&I).

It also includes some other types of income, such as that from government or company bonds.

WILL INTEREST FROM ISAS BE INCLUDED?

Money held in tax-free ISAs will not count towards the allowance as this cash is already ring-fenced from the taxman.

DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO CLAIM MY ALLOWANCE?

No. But if you are a basic rate taxpayer and earn interest of more than £1,000, or a higher-rate taxpayer earning interest of more than £500, you will still have to pay some tax on this.

If this is the case, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will normally collect the tax by changing your tax code. Banks and building societies will give HMRC the information they need to do this.

IS IT STILL WORTH PAYING INTO AN ISA?

There are already quite a few places outside an ISA where you can find decent rates – for example, several current accounts now offer rates of 3%, 4% and 5%.

But, while interest rates generally are low, it's also important to consider what will happen when rates eventually start to increase – and the amount of cash you earn in interest also starts to go up.

It could mean more of your personal savings allowance gets used up, and you may start to go over it and be liable for tax on your savings once more. Once money is in an ISA meanwhile, it is ring-fenced from the taxman for good, until it is withdrawn.

With the Bank of England base rate having stood at a rock bottom low for seven years, the returns on savings have been paltry

And there was a boost for ISA savers in the recent Budget.

It was announced that the total annual amount you are allowed to save into ISAs will increase, from its current level of £15,240 to £20,000 from April 2017.

It's also worth considering saving into a new Lifetime Isa, details of which were also announced in the Budget.

The new Lifetime ISA accounts, set to be available by April 2017, can be opened by people aged between 18 and 40, and any savings they put in before their 50th birthday will receive an added 25 per cent government bonus.

Bonus

This means 25p will be added by the Government for each £1 put in by the saver up, until the age of 50.

The new Lifetime ISA accounts, in which people will be able to save up to £4,000 a year, are intended as a way for younger people to save for their first home, and their retirement, in the same pot. The new scheme will mean that over their lifetime, savers putting £128,000 away will be able to get a bonus of up to £32,000, plus any growth on their investments.

The UK Government also launched Help to Buy ISAs, which help first-time buyers save for a deposit by offering a bonus.

The maximum Government bonus from a Help to Buy ISA is £3,000. To receive that, someone will need to have saved £12,000.

Mortgages

Meanwhile, one in five mortgage holders would be forced to make spending cutbacks if interest rates started rising – and one in 14 would seriously struggle to cope – a report has found.

Half of people surveyed for Nationwide Mortgages said they were already using credit cards and overdrafts to fund everyday spending, including food bills.

If rates moved at all, 20% said they would have to cut back on spending and a further 7% believed it would leave them seriously struggling.

Nearly one in five (18%) of the 2,000 homeowners with mortgages surveyed had no rainy day fund to call on in case of emergencies.

House prices surged by 7.9% annually in January to reach a new record high of £292,000 on average across the UK, official figures show.

A first-time buyer faces paying 7.7% more for a property than a year earlier, with the average price paid for a starter home standing at £222,000 in January 2016, according to the report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Property website Rightmove recently said the average asking price for a home has passed the £300,000 milestone across England and Wales for the first time.

FINANCIAL FACT

For every savings rate on the market that increased in February, around 20 were cut, according to **Moneyfacts.co.uk**

In February, Moneyfacts recorded 12 savings rate rises – and 235 rate decreases – with some deals falling by as much as 0.74%.

Volunteer in driver's seat of sports car restoration

At the Black Country Living Museum, Keith Peckmore returns to work on the sports car he helped make in the 1950s

IT was like driving back in time for retired engineer Keith Peckmore when he was asked to help restore a sports car he built more than 60 years ago.

Mr Peckmore was part of a team that made the 1100cc Kieft car, which was unveiled for the Earls Court Motorshow in 1954.

More than six decades on, he has been restoring the classic car, which can reach speeds of more than 100mph, at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. Once a month, the group of volunteers at the museum drive the cars around the site to delight of the visitors.

The car was specifically made for the motor show and Mr Peckmore believes it was given to Anne, the daughter of Kieft Cars founder Cyril Kieft, as a 21st birthday present. It was given the number plate AK 123 – AK for Anne Kieft.

Kieft Cars were a British company that built Formula Three racing cars, with their headquarters at Derry Street in Wolverhampton.

The two Kieft cars that were on display at the 1954 show had fibreglass bodies and were reported to have been the first ever produced from a single mould as a complete unit. The cars were the first to score an international win using a Coventry Climax engine.

Retired engineer Mr Peckmore, who has been part of the museum's volunteer team of eight engineers for five years, only laid eyes on the model again in 2002 at Mr Kieft's memorial in Tettenhall. It was later donated to the Black Country Motor Group, which has had it since 2008.

He said: "It was a wonderful feeling to be reunited with the car again."

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Carpenter George in action in the pit compound around the late 1950s

Alveley was a modern mine compared to others. Picture: Robert Evans collection

When rural villages were home to coal pits

MEMORY LANE

By Toby Neal

IT'S been a long time since 88-year-old George Poyner worked at Alveley Colliery, but you can still see his handiwork today.

This site of toil, industry, dirt and sometimes danger has in modern times been transformed into Severn Valley Country Park. And a few years ago George applied his skills to recreate one of the wooden coal-carrying tubs for display in the park's visitor centre.

Over 70 years ago teenage George was part of the colliery team which turned out the original wooden tubs during wartime – they were paid 12 shillings (60p) per tub – until in about 1945 it was decided to replace them with metal ones.

This was just one of his many and varied duties as a pit carpenter in a career which spanned 26 years.

He is a living link with the days when this part of rural Shropshire, near the Worcestershire border, had a number of coal mines.

All are long gone with Alveley, the last survivor in these parts south of Bridgnorth, closing in January 1969. Shropshire's last pit of all, at Granville, shut in 1979.

The day of the Shropshire miner had passed.

Durable

George continues to turn his hand to household projects like bird tables and, naturally, has a workshop at his Highley home.

He did the woodwork for his conservatory himself.

"I haven't done anything big lately," he said.

"My favourite wood is mahogany. I like oak as well. It's quite durable."

George started working at the colliery at the age of 14 on leaving Highley School in 1941.

"It was the only thing you could do in those days. There was nothing much else. I was working in the carpenters' shop and fitting shop. It was smashing, and I really enjoyed it there."

Although his was generally a surface job, he would often need to go underground.

"In the workshops when I started I remember Harry Latham, a shaftsman, Alma Honeybourne, Fred James, Fred Guy and Ern James, a sawyer who left after a few months. The colliery manager was Mr Machin who was well respected by most people.

"I was lent a saw, hammer and chisel by another carpenter, George Elcock, and my first job was making a roller box. This was a wooden box which contained a cast iron roller. This fitted between the rails.

Loaded

"In those days the coal was loaded into tubs and these were pulled along the rails by a wire rope attached to a haulage engine. The roller box stopped the rope from dragging on the floor."

The colliery was virtually brand new.

"It was sunk in 1935/6 and had only been in full production since 1940. Alveley had nice new brick workshops, offices, a lamp room, winding house and ambulance room.

"My first experience underground was when I was 15. I went down with Alan Kelly, a fitter, to drill holes, 1.5 inches diameter into a baulk of timber for a tension screw for a haulage rope."

A little while ago we published a photo dated 1948 of an unidentified group of people who we thought were from a colliery in Bridgnorth area.

George, and George alone, came forward to say who they were office staff of the colliery pictured, he thinks, on the lawn in front of the colliery offices.

He named them as: back row, Tom Cadwallader, Olive Link, Dennis Bache, Doreen Giles, Ted Warrington, and possibly Joan Childs. Front row: Harold Powell, Wilbur Lloyd, Marie Price (nee Robinson), Denise Davies, and Keith Holford.

For George, who lived at the time in one of the miners' houses at Woodhill Road, pit work was very much the "family business" and for a while in the 1950s six of his family worked at Alveley Colliery.

His father John (Jack) Poyner was one of those who looked after the horses underground - they had though been phased out by the 1950s - and had worked at Kinlet Colliery before transferring to Highley.

"Kinlet Colliery was started in 1893 and closed in 1937. The winding house still stands, close to the New Road on the Kinlet side of the brook.

"Alma Honeybourne told me a lot about Kinlet pit while we worked in the shops.

"The wooden headgear was built by a carpenter called Spider Matthews. The winding house took quite a battering when the scrap men moved in to take away the engine.

Shaft

"They did not want the winding rope and so they thought they would let it down the shaft.

"However as more and more rope went down the shaft it gathered speed and it ran away with itself. This caused the winding engine to explode, blowing the roof off the engine house. However the walls are still standing."

Before Alveley Colliery came along there was too, over the river, Highley Colliery.

"It was sunk in 1878 and was the first large mine in the village. It was closed for coal winding when Alveley started but the two pits were connected underground.

"Highley was kept open to serve as an air shaft; air went down the shaft at Alveley, around the workings and then was sucked up the Highley shafts by a fan."

The Highley name was to persist even after production there ended. Confusingly, the name "Highley Colliery" was often applied to the pit at Alveley.

George, incidentally, invariably calls where he worked "Alveley Colliery", which of course accurately describes where it was.

George Poyner in his workshop at home in Highley

George can still recall the people on this picture of office staff from the colliery

A teenager who became lost victim of the war

A decent burial at last – Carr's grave

APRIL 10, 1941, was a bad day for RAF Tern Hill, just one of many such bad days.

As a training base for pilots, it was used to fatal accidents. Indeed, in only a 21-day period during that month at the air base near Market Drayton a total of 11 young men were killed.

But there was to be something special about the death of John Toplis Carr in a mid-air collision which would see it resonate through history. Carr, who was only 19, became a lost victim of the war, because his body was not recovered.

In the years that followed Leading Aircraftman Carr's mother was to die without realising her greatest wish – tracing her son who had been officially listed as "missing presumed dead".

With the Ministry of Defence announcing the closure of the Clive Barracks at Tern Hill, his story highlights some of the human history of the site. What made Carr's story remarkable and different was that it was nearly 40 years before his remains were recovered and he was given a decent burial.

His Miles Master trainer aircraft came down in a peat bog at Helshaw Grange Farm, south west of the airfield. A recovery crew went to the site at the time of the crash, but the soft state of the ground made it too dangerous to retrieve Carr's body.

Ultimately all attempts were abandoned. There was a funeral service in situ, and the crash site was simply fenced off and left.

Fast forward to October 1978, and enthusiasts from the Shropshire Wartime Aircraft Recovery Group, which had only been established the previous April, were given permission to investigate the site using an excavator. And so, at last, many years after the end of the conflict, Carr's remains were recovered. The team even found an old spade which had been used in the original abortive salvage attempts.

Breakthrough

But was there any family left alive to tell about the discovery? Attempts by the Ministry of Defence to trace anybody drew a blank. Its records revealed his parents had lived in Eastbourne. However, by then the house – and even the road they lived in – no longer existed.

The breakthrough came with the reporting of the inquest into his death, which was held in Wellington. The inquest verdict was "accidental death." The publicity led to a surviving relative being traced in South Africa.

Carr was buried with full military honours in April 1979 at the huge wooded 500-acre Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey. Wartime Aircraft Recovery Group members Mr David Thorp and Mr John Wright attended the funeral with Carr's relatives and friends and RAF officers. But what had happened on that fateful day in 1941? The details are covered in the book Pancakes & Prangs by Shropshire air crash researcher Tom Thorne.

"The pupil pilot was taking off from the airfield when, for unknown reasons, he collided with another Master which was approaching to land. Both aircraft crashed out of control onto marshy ground near the airfield.

"Assistance was called for from 34 MU (Maintenance Unit), Monkmoor, to help in the recovery of the wreckage but, despite their best attempts, the body of LAC Carr could not be recovered."

The other victim of the crash, in the second plane, was Leading Aircraftman Denis Michael Whittam Hartley, also 19. He is buried at Basildon.

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O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Krept And Konan
Wed at 7pm, £13
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

John Wildwood and friends
Sun,
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

Open Mic Night with Tony Wall
Weds at 8.30pm
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

COMEDY

Rob Beckett: Mouth Of The South
Sat at 8pm, £12 - £14
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Russell Kane: Right Man, Wrong Age
Fri at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous
Sat at 8pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Jonny Cole: A Black Country Night Out
Fri at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

THEATRE

Heartbeat
Fri at 7.30pm,
Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Annie
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

How Lion Became King Of Tinga Tinga Land
Fri at 2pm, Sat at 11am,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Trainspotting
Fri at 6pm and 8pm, Sat at 6pm and 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Rehearsal For Murder
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rotter's Club
Sat at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Best Thing
Wed at 7.30pm,
Thu at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Mary Poppins
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm and 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm and 7.30pm,
£25.55 - £30.60
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Three Keepers
Tue at 2pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

ART GALLERIES

Kelly Mark: 108 Leyton Ave
Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Into The Woods
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Big Ceramics: Discover Clay On A Monumental Scale
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Andrea Hannon: The House Is Still Named After Him
Fri at 10am, Sat at 10am, Mon at 10am, Tue at 10am, Wed at 10am, Thu at 10am,
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Laura Lancaster
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Jan Vanriet The Music Boy
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Willard Wigan Homecoming Exhibition
Fri - Thurs
Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Janet Mendelsohn: Varna Road
Fri at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm,
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Mental Spaces
Fri at 9am - 8.30pm, Sat,
Light House, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Wendy Ramshaw's Room Of Dreams
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Quarto
Fri, Sat,
Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

The Birmingham And Midland Pastel Society: The Art Of Pastels
Fri at 10am - 4pm, Sat at 10am - 4pm, Mon at 10am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Free
Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

OTHER EVENTS

Disney On Ice: Silver Anniversary Celebration
Wed at 7pm, Thu at 7pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Antiques For Everyone Spring Fair
Thu at 11am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Gadget Show Live 2016
Fri at 9am - 6pm, Sat at 9am - 6pm, Sun at 9am - 6pm,
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Bedlam Festival 2016
Wed,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Egg-Cellent Easter
Fri at 9.30am - 5pm, Sat at 9.30am - 5pm, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm, Mon at 9.30am - 5pm, Tue at 9.30am - 5pm, Wed at 9.30am - 5pm,
Drayton Manor Theme Park, Near Tamworth, B78 3TW.
Call 0844 472 1960

Family Saturday
Sat at 1pm - 4pm,
Ikon Gallery, B'ham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Lesley's new role as horrid Hannigan

Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan in the hit musical Annie, which is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Photo: Paul Coltas

BIRDS of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will turn from Essex maneater into gin-soaked American orphanage boss when ever-popular musical Annie arrives in Wolverhampton next week.

The actress, who found fame as snob neighbour Dorien in the hit sitcom co-starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is now taking on the role of Miss Hannigan, the spiteful harridan who attempts to cheat poor little orphan Annie after she becomes the favourite orphan of billionaire Daddy Warbucks.

Set in 1930s New York, the show features such popular songs as Tomorrow, It's the Hard-Knock Life and Easy Street.

Lesley Joseph is relishing her role when the show is staged at the Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9.

"This is a brand new production of Annie, and it's very exciting," she says. "I get to be very horrible but I try to make my Miss Hannigan a little bit vulnerable because she's got a rotten life, she's stuck in an orphanage with no money looking after kids in the middle of The Depression.

"It is, however, a fun family musical and that's what I love – you can bring your granny or your grandchildren, and the little girls all want to be Annie."

Perfect for inspiration

SHE made her name with the group Fairground Attraction and their BRIT awarding winning 1988 number one hit Perfect, the first in a hat-trick of BRITs for the Scottish singer Eddi Reader has spent the biggest part of her life working as a solo artist.

She is one of Scotland's best loved singers and sang in 2004 at the opening of the Scottish Parliament, and was awarded an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts in the New Year's honours list of 2006

Reader is back on the road with a solo tour that will reach Birmingham's Glee Club on Sunday, April 3, when she is looking forward to showcasing her favourites from a lifetime's worth of songs.

"I don't have secrets," she says. "I love songs and stories. I am inspired by life around me.

"I love artists like Louis Armstrong. I identify with him. There are so many brilliant human beings past and present. Kids inspire me most of all, they remind me of living in the moment."

"When I left home, I was full of adventure and wanderlust. I met like-minded people and we all conjoined on a river bank in the South of France.We ate together with the money we all made by presenting our talents in the streets of Avignon, Nimes and Uzes. It taught me about sharing, listening and selling a song without a microphone.

"I never had a plan. I just aligned myself to songs I liked and they put me in all kinds of situations."

The Final Straw for Otway and Barrett

HERE are some of the week's gig highlights:

Tonight (Thu) veterans John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett bring their Final Straw Tour to Bilston's Robin 2.

Tomorrow Montreal rock band The Besnard Lakes bring their Pink Floyd-like soundscapes to the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath.

New Yorkers the Big Ups play Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Jim Jones brings his latest band, The Righteous Mind, for raw rock at the Hare and Hounds on Tuesday, then psychedelic rockers The Vryll Society are at the same above-the-pub venue on Wednesday.

Comedy nights spring into action

THE 'Mouth of the South' – AKA comedian Rob Beckett – is coming to Shropshire and Staffordshire on his spring tour.

The toothy blond comic, known for his appearances on Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats, is at The Place at Oakengates, Telford, on Saturday before returning to the region at Stafford Gatehouse on April 16, Burton's Brewhouse Arts Centre on May 19 and at Lichfield Festival on July 4.

Humour has a regional flavour at Wolverhampton Grand tomorrow night (Fri) with a Black Country Night Out featuring Jonny Cole, The Fizzogs, Dandy and The Ronaldos.

Familiar faces in murder mystery

FOLLOWING his decade-long success with The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, theatre impresario Bill Kenwright has created The Classic Thriller Theatre Company.

Its first production, Rehearsal For Murder, is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9. The cast of familiar faces from TV include Ben Nealon (from Soldier Soldier), Robert Daws (Poldark), Susan Penhaligon (Bouquet of Barbed Wire), Robert Duncan (Drop The Dead Donkey), Lucy Dixon (Waterloo Road), Amy Robbins (The Royal) and Steven Pinder (Brookside).

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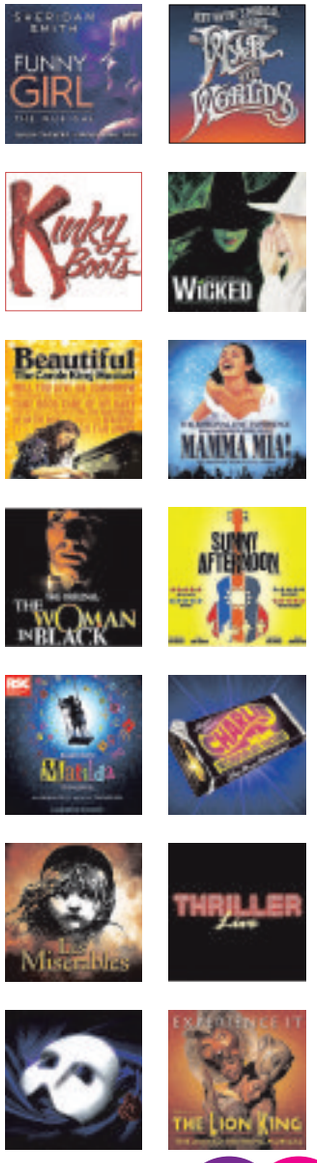
**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.*



DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, March 31, 2016

CHOICE

Patricia Routledge

Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge (Channel 4, 8pm)
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. She discovers what fired the author's imagination and where her love and understanding of animals was born. As an actress, Patricia played Beatrix on stage in the 1990s. In her present role as patron of the Beatrix Potter Society, and with access to rare drawings, letters and artefacts held at the V&A Archive, she discovers the woman behind the myth. Previously seen on More4.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** Now You See It. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 Can't Touch This. A pest controller, a "dosey-do" dancer, and a former member of a boy-band are among the 16 contestants battling their way through a giant obstacle course, in the hopes of laying hands on the goodies within. Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo preside as the competitors tear through the prize-filled gauntlet, which culminates in a giant leap of faith that could net them the grand prize. Narrated by Sue Perkins.

7.00 The Voice UK. The semi finals arrive, along with the nail-biting tension associated with another round of live performances. The remaining contestants must once master their nerves and take to the stage to determine whether the tutelage they've received at the hands of Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson, Paloma Faith and Boy George has paid off. As was the case last week, the identities of those would-be stars progressing through to the grand final will be decided by the viewers at home, who are encouraged to take part in a public vote to determine which act will leaving the contest.

9.05 Casualty. Connie decides to call off her romance with Jacob, but has second thoughts when he gets trapped in a partially collapsed building. Meanwhile, Ethan shares his bad news with Lily.

9.55 The National Lottery Live. The winning numbers are revealed.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Norwich City v Newcastle United at Carrow Road; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Salvage. (2009) A woman searches for her missing daughter when a deadly creature hides out in her neighbourhood. Horror, starring Neve McIntosh.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: I Remember Mama. (1948) **8.40** The Women's Football Show. (R) **9.10 Film:** A Distant Trumpet. (1964) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.30** Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.20 Film:** Easter Parade. (1948) Romantic musical, with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R)

6.00 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gets to work on his wildlife garden, ensuring there are plenty of plants in flower for early pollinators. Plus, Carol Klein visits a shaded yet thriving garden. (R)

6.30 Bake Off: Creme de la Creme. Tom Kerridge welcomes three teams of pastry chefs to the first heat of this contest. They are challenged to make more than 100 perfect miniature pastries in three hours for judges Benoit Blin, Cherish Finden and Claire Clark to inspect and taste. Contestants must then reinvent the apple crumble as a showpiece dessert, complete with a towering edible sculpture. (R)

7.30 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn their ancient secrets for surviving on foot among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Capt Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)

9.00 John Le Mesurier: It's All Been Rather Lovely. A portrait of the prolific actor's life and career, from his turbulent marriage to Hattie Jacques to his role as Sergeant Wilson in the wartime sitcom Dad's Army. (R)

10.00 Film: Quartet. (2012) Three former singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by the arrival of a famous diva. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly.

11.35 Film: The Lady. (2011)

1.40 This Is BBC Two. **5.45** Great British Garden Revival. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather.; **12.29** Regional Programme. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** The Chase. (R) **3.35** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **4.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee. (2005)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed!

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The double-act take their weekend showcase away from the confines of the studio, setting up shop on the deck of a cruise ship in Barcelona for their series finale. This week, The Hobbit star James Nesbitt takes the helm as guest announcer, while TV personality and pop star Peter Andre gets to Singalong Live with his most famous hit, Mysterious Girl. The culprit is finally unveiled in Who Shot Simon Cowell?, and tennis star Andy Murray receives a grilling from precocious mini-presenters Little Ant and Dec. The hosts enter ITV's infamous Cube for one last round of Ant v Dec, and one unsuspecting passenger receives a huge surprise. Plus, a lucky audience member is given a chance to Win the Ads, and the Geordie duo round off the with an all-singing, all-dancing End of the Show Show. Last in the series.

8.30 You're Back in the Room. Former motorcycle racer Carl Fogarty and ex-Towie star Joey Essex join Phillip Schofield and illusionist Keith Barry for the hypnotism game show.

9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: Hot Fuzz. (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix third practice session. **2.05** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Kempton Park. **3.00** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. The documentary series exploring the mysteries behind bizarre climatic conditions continues, this time focusing on the weather's most colourful mysteries. Among the natural marvels highlighted are the top of a black volcano, and the bottom of a "rainbow" river.

8.00 Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge. Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees actress Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 Film: Identity Thief. (2013) Premiere. A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally – resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy, with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet.

11.15 Film: Sliver. (1993) A book editor living in an apartment block begins an affair with the owner and is drawn into a series of murders. Erotic thriller, starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin.

1.10 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly drives to the airport to find Robbie. (R) **3.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.15** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **5.10** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. **5.25** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** The Fairly OddParents. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Rookies & Raids: A Police Interceptors Special. (R) **2.25** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **3.20** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.20** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **5.15** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R)

6.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a navy intelligence commander responsible for tracking the movements of a Venezuelan politician disappears.

7.00 NCIS: New Orleans. Two US Navy foremen are murdered at a Naval Branch health clinic, and with a little help from Brody's mother Olivia, the team discovers the two dead men had been tasked with delivering a heart for a transplant operation. The planned recipient was a skilled Dapra programmer with a rare blood type, but the killers made sure to ruin the procedure by putting a bullet through the organ before making their escape. However, when the heart in question turns out to be a decoy, the team begins to suspect the culprits may have stolen the real one for a criminal with a heart defect from the FBI's most wanted list. Naval crime drama, guest starring Annie Potts.

8.00 NCIS. The team uncovers a fraudulent charity that preys on those searching for missing military personnel while investigating the murder of a retired Master Sergeant.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Hull City v Bristol City and Brighton & Hove Albion v Burnley.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Bury, Shrewsbury Town v Wigan Athletic and Mansfield Town v Northampton Town.

10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R)

11.25 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Treasures of the Indus **8.00** Human Planet **9.00** Follow the Money **11.00** TOTP2: 80s Special **12.00** Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity **1.00** Top of the Pops: 1981 **1.35** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.10** One-Hit Wonders at the BBC **3.10** Sounds of the 70s **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.35** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.30** Scorpion **2.25 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **4.25** Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 Comedy Moments **5.30 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.35 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.35** FYI Daily **8.40 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.45 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **1.45** FYI Daily **1.50 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **2.35** Tinie Tempah: The Hot Desk **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

1.25 FYI Daily **1.30 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.15** A Touch of Frost **4.25 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Inspector Morse **12.25** Blue Murder **1.55** Doctor in the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

3.15 Film: The Rawhide Years (1956) **4.00 Film:** Dr No (1962) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Dr No (1962) **6.15** The Snooker Mavericks **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **11.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Long Beach ePrix. **1.30** Hell on Wheels **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

1.00 New Girl **1.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00 Film:** 17 Again (2009) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red (2010) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Gogglebox **4.15** How I Met Your Mother **4.35** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Sister Act (1992) **3.05** Stuart Little (1999) **4.45** Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **6.45** Adventures in Babysitting (1987) **8.50** Oblivion Interview Special **9.00** Alien (1979) **11.15** The Moth Diaries (2011)

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CHOICE

Keeley Hawes

The Durrells (ITV, 8pm)
New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, Josh O'Connor, Milo Parker, Daisy Waterstone, Callum Woodhouse, James Cosmo, Alexis Georgoulis, Yorgos Karamihos, Anna Savva, Max Befort, Ben Hall, Nick Orestis Chaniotakis, Andrew Bicknell, Graham Seed and Hara Ermidi, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Secret Britain. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Life in the Air.

6.00 Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army and Me. The presenter teaches troubled teenagers how to bake, helps a homeless man who has finally got a roof over his head to move, and is persuaded to perform a rap song.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. An episode devoted to cattle, in which Matt Baker meets a farmer who got into the business after a fundraising campaign on social media, who discusses the current state of the beef trade. Helen Skelton visits a tannery using traditional methods to produce leather, and Anita Rani meets an artist who paints on vellum. Adam Henson meets another of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero nominees, and Charlotte Smith asks if large indoor dairy herds are a more efficient way of making milk. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more decorative objects and rarities.

9.00 Undercover. New series. Legal drama, starring Sophie Okonedo as the director of Public Prosecutions, who uses her position to bring about justice for a murdered activist. With Adrian Lester.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Leicester City v Southampton at the King Power Stadium and Manchester United v Everton at Old Trafford.

11.35 Film: Butterfly on a Wheel. (2007) A couple's daughter is kidnapped by a criminal who forces them into a course of action that will ruin their lives. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 This Farming Life. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00 Film:** Silk Stockings. (1957) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. **2.55** Flog It! (R) **3.30** Figure Skating. **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R)

6.00 The Secret History of My Family. Documentary charting 200 years of social history by exploring different family trees. (R)

7.00 Bletchley Park: Code-Breaking's Forgotten Genius. Mathematician and cryptanalyst Gordon Welchman was one of the original elite codebreakers at Bletchley Park and played a crucial part in the Allies defeating Germany. After the war, he moved to America to work at the heart of the computer revolution and was employed by defence contractor the Mitre Corporation, where he was involved in top-secret research. In this programme, academic John Naughton and former CIA analyst Cynthia Storer examine how Welchman's pioneering work in the field of traffic analysis led directly to today's secret state surveillance, as revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden. (R)

8.00 Natural Born Winners. The athletes visit Turkey, where they learn oil wrestling from one of the sport's greatest champions. When they watch a match, they realise it is more dangerous than they thought.

9.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea, where he meets a tribe that lives alongside crocodiles and is taught to hunt the predators with his bare hands. Last in the series.

10.00 Thirteen. Ivy is forced to risk her life and confront her past to save Phoebe, as the Moxam family is plunged into the same horror they faced 13 years previously. Last in the series.

11.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Detectives work closely with the prosecutors to find flashier evidence for the jury. (R)

11.40 Film: Snow Cake. (2005)

1.25 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.10 Film:** The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as DJ Scott Mills, actress Sunetra Sarker, boxer Anthony Ogogo and TV presenter Johnny Ball pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

8.00 The Durrells. New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals.

9.00 Home Fires. New series. The WI of Great Paxford live under a shadow as the Battle of Britain looms. Pat befriends a Czech soldier, but finds independence less enjoyable than expected.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Olivier Awards 2016.

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix (Start-time 4.00pm).

6.30 Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Special. Ahead of the new Formula 1 season on Channel 4 this weekend, Guy Martin goes head to head with racing legend David Coulthard in the ultimate test of bike against car. With David in a Red Bull RB8 Formula 1 car and Guy on his Tyco BMW Superbike, the pair race in a series of challenges including a drag race, a brake test, slalom and a full-on circuit race. There's also entertainment in the pit as they compete in physical and mental challenges, testing their fitness and reaction times and exploring the science behind their chosen racing machines. (R)

7.30 Channel 4 News.

8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales' waterway adventures. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. The club holds a fashion show, but the glamorous evening turns ugly when a horrifying attack is made on a guest, with the identity of the culprit a mystery. Ralph takes it upon himself to play detective and bring the perpetrator to justice himself, but the truth turns out to be more terrible than he could have imagined and threatens to leave his political career in tatters. Elsewhere, Sirene continues to cause chaos in Simla, as she clashes with Cynthia and wreaks havoc in Ralph and Madeleine's marriage.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix Highlights.

12.00 Film: I Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) **1.45** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **2.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.50** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.00** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.20** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.50** The Gadget Show. **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Greatest Animated Movies. (R) **4.40 Film:** Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return. (2013) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Lea Michele.

6.20 Film: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. (1937) Premiere. Disney animated version of the Brothers Grimm story about a princess driven from her home into a sinister forest by her evil stepmother. She is taken in by a group of kindly dwarf miners, but her happiness is threatened when her stepmother returns bearing a poisoned apple. The first ever feature length animated movie, with the voices of Adriana Caselotti and Lucille La Verne.

8.00 Now That's Funny! Featuring failures in 3D and some unlucky beginners. Plus, the latest Stars of the Week.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Jonathan Ross is enlisted to help two of this week's illusionists, assisting on a card trick and an act involving drawing. Plus, a performer attempts to use mental trickery on Penn and Teller and a fourth act make animals disappear and comes up with a new twist on the classic cup and ball routine. Finally, Penn and Teller recruit a member of the audience for a knife-throwing act.

10.00 Film: Carrie. (2013) Premiere. A teenage girl finally snaps and uses her psychic powers to avenge herself on the bullies who tormented her. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore.

12.00 Johnstone's Paint Trophy Football. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sir Peter Maxwell Davies: Master and Maverick **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **9.00** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **10.40 Film:** Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas (2013) **12.35** Dan Cruickshank: Resurrecting History – Warsaw **1.35** Sounds of the 70s **2.05** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **3.45** Close

ITV2
11.30 Take Me Out **12.45** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.45 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **3.55** Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 Animal Acts **4.55** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** Bordertown **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** @ elevenish **2.15** Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.20 Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **12.50** A Touch of Frost **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** By Royal Appointment **9.00** Great Estates of Scotland **10.15 Film:** The American President (1995) **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20 Film:** The American President (1995) **12.35** The Kindness of Strangers **2.05** Wycliffe **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.35** Judge Judy **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
6.15 The Goodwood Members Meeting **7.15** Football's Greatest: George Best **7.30** Pawn Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Police Academy (1984) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Police Academy (1984) **11.05 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **1.10** The Sweeney **2.05** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
2.55 Toy Story Toons **3.25** Ice Age: The Great Egg-Scapade **3.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** Rude(ish) Tube **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.05** The Aliens **1.10** The 100 **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** Rules of Engagement **3.40** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **1.00** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **3.05** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Home Alone (1990) **6.45** Grease 2 (1982) **9.00** Red 2 (2013)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm
The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing – an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit – and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)

TUESDAY
Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)

The Living Daylights, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
The Charge of the Light Brigade, BBC2, 1.50pm
A British major and his brother stationed in India during the Crimean War become rivals when they fall in love with the same woman. An allied local ruler betrays the British, carrying out a massacre of civilians and prompting the major to swear revenge on him – ultimately leading a suicidal attack on an enemy artillery position. Fact-based drama, starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland and Nigel Bruce. (1936)

THURSDAY
Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.25pm
A divorcee suspects a nursery is mistreating her young daughter. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

FRIDAY
The Living Daylights, ITV, 10.40pm
James Bond crosses the continents to help a KGB agent to defect to the West. While protecting him from an unknown assassin, the super-spy is drawn into the world of arms dealing. Action adventure, with Timothy Dalton making his debut appearance as 007, alongside Maryam d'Abo, Joe Don Baker and Art Malik. (1987)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Marcella faces a deadly blast from the past

In 2014, the Swedish-Danish crime thriller The Bridge began a run on BBC Four.

Fans of the series may be interested to know that its creator, Hans Rosenfeldt, is also the man behind this new drama, his first British project.

"Turin is a city in the north of Italy that I don't know much about, but it was there that Marcella was born," reveals Rosenfeldt. "I was there to talk about The Bridge, and my thoughts on the remakes that have been made. It's there that I met TV executive Nicola Larder.

"Later, at a very nice dinner, she said she had an idea about a police series set in London, where we meet the protagonist at her lowest ebb, having just been left by her husband, with her kids away at boarding school and a serial killer from the past reappearing. Would I be interested in developing it further? The answer to that, as you've probably guessed, was yes."

Of course, cops on the edge aren't exactly a rarity – in fact, millions of us have recently been gripped by the second series of Happy Valley, in which Sarah Lancashire played Catherine Cawood, a police sergeant still somehow picking herself up and carrying on with her life despite being repeatedly hit by its slings and arrows, including a psychopath determined to grind her down from inside his prison cell.

Here, the action takes place in London rather than West Yorkshire, and focuses on Marcella Backland, played by Anna Friel.

When we first meet her, Marcella is heartbroken by the break-up of her marriage and needs a new purpose. As a result, she returns to the police career she gave up 10 years previously, and throws herself into her work with the Met's Murder Squad to stop herself falling apart.

Her first case involves a serial killer whose raison d'etre appears to be the same of a murderer she was trying to find in 2005. Has he started a new killing spree, or have the crimes been committed by a copycat?

"Anna Friel was the only actress I had in my head," says Larder. "I'd worked with her briefly and I knew she was this incredibly powerful method actress. And I'd missed her – she hasn't been in the UK for a while. She's the right age for this character and emotionally she just lets herself go into a part.

"Thankfully her first meeting with us went really well. I felt she had plugged herself into mine and Hans's bodies and she understood this character from the inside out."

Larder also claims that it still "feels fresh" to have a female lead character in a major drama series, despite many examples of that happening, including in the aforementioned Happy Valley, as well as the likes of Scott and Bailey and, of course, the mighty Prime Suspect.

She also neglects to mention the Nordic flavour brought to the BBC's River by Stellan Skarsgard, but we'll forgive her these omissions if Marcella lives up to its promise.

Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Neighbours: Hotel Death Trap
Channel 5, 5.30pm
It's all kicking off in Erinsborough this week! Over the years viewers have witnessed some extraordinary (and, occasionally, unbelievable moments) during the long-running soap, but those in the know claim that this may top the lot – we're certainly not used to the usually family friendly programme requiring a post-watershed slot. It all begins with everything seemingly ticking over as normal at the Lassiter's leisure complex. Everyone is going about their business, unaware that somebody is tampering with its boiler. As a variety of meetings and assignations get under way – including a secret rendezvous, surprise encounters and the arrival of two mystery men – the boiler explodes, leaving some well-known faces buried and trapped beneath the resulting debris. But who will survive the carnage?

TUESDAY
Murdered By My Father
BBC1, 10.45pm
In 2014, BBC Three brought us the award-winning one-off drama Murdered By My Boyfriend, which explored the issues of domestic abuse. Now the channel is bringing us this powerful drama, which is airing on TV after receiving its debut online, and tackles the controversial subject of 'honour violence' in Britain. Kiran Sonia Sawar stars as teenager Salma, whose widowed father Shahzad (Adeel Akhtar) is determined to find her a suitable husband, and thinks he has picked one in the shape of Haroon (Salman Akhtar). However, Salma has fallen for Imi (Mawaan Rizwan), who urges her to leave her family and marriage arrangements behind in favour of a new life. When Haroon confronts Shahzad about his daughter's actions, the scene is set for more than one tragedy…

WEDNESDAY
The People Next Door
Channel 4, 9pm
The award-winning team behind Cyberbully and Blackout are back with another thought-provoking one-off drama that raises some difficult questions. It begins with a young middle-class couple being interviewed by the police following an altercation with their neighbours. A series of flashbacks reveal that parents-to-be Gemma (Joanna Horton) and Richard (Happy Valley's Karl Davies) moved into their home two months ago and, after hearing sounds of rows and violence through the wall, they begin to suspect that one the neighbours' children is at risk of abuse. When the authorities fail to intervene, Gemma and Richard use increasingly elaborate surveillance methods to find out what is really happening next door. Are their intrusive actions justified if it means protecting a child, or are the snooping couple the real neighbours from hell?

Murdered By My Father, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Millionaires' Mansions
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. London's housing market is booming, thanks to foreign investors buying property worth more than £100 billion – and as a result the luxury interior design industry is flourishing. This documentary follows three prestigious designers working for some of the capital's wealthiest clients. They include Joanna Wood, who has been designing houses for royal families and Hollywood film stars for 30 years, and Brian Wade, who has spent the past four-and-a-half years designing a seven-storey Knightsbridge townhouse, with furniture including a stingray-skin coffee table and a chandelier made from Hyde Park leaves dipped in gold.

FRIDAY
Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers
BBC2, 7.30pm
There will be no room for complacency for World Cup semi-finalists England tonight as they face Belgium in their latest Euro 2017 Qualifier at Rotherham United's New York Stadium. After the 8-0 drubbing of Estonia in Tallinn, Mark Sampson's Lionesses only just squeezed through their last qualifier 1-0 at home to Bosnia & Herzegovina, thanks to a Jill Scott winner. And they are also looking to bounce back after failing to win any of their three games against Germany, USA and France in last month's inaugural SheBelieves Cup in America. Presenter Jacqui Oatley is joined in the studio by England internationals Kelly Smith and Rachel Brown-Finnis, while commentary is provided by Jonathan Pearce and Sue Smith.

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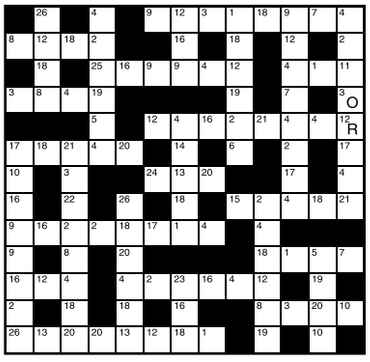
BRAIN GYM No.371

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3 O	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 R	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	K	F	M	W	R	H	Y	V	X	T	Q	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
I	C	S	L	O	U	D	B	Z	E	J	P	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

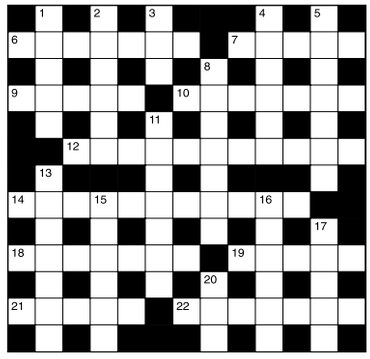
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Be understanding and get along somehow (4,3)
7. In the main he gets down to his work (5)
9. Match label (5)
10. Get together – for getting in the harvest? (7)
12. Having no saving graces? (11)
14. Not a difficult thing to eat? (5,2,4)
18. His money may be well-earned! (7)
19. One has no right to take things so (5)
21. About enough for one shot (5)
22. Succeed in losing one's balance? (4,3)

Down

1. Obtain part of South Africa by birth? (5)
2. Such action will be involuntary (6)
3. Fruit brought up in a container (3)
4. A case of perhaps private possessions? (3-3)
5. It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7)
8. He's not free, yet may have time! (7)
11. Soldier on a horse or military ship (7)
13. Acid criticism (7)
15. Stop a letter giving settlement (6)
16. Lot of Arabs (6)
17. The general idea in current travel (5)
20. He has nothing inside for gardeners (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Harmed (7)
7. Wed (5)
9. To object (5)
10. Malady (7)
12. Secret (11)
14. Cows (11)
18. Hard-hearted (7)
19. Talk (5)
21. Trivial (5)
22. Bill (7)

Down

1. Come in (5)
2. Reciprocal (6)
3. Lair (3)
4. Mourn (6)
5. Gift (7)
8. Generous (7)
11. Old-fashioned (7)
13. Incensed (7)
15. Creeks (6)
16. Use (6)
17. Haggard (5)
20. Perform (3)

Sudoku

2	1			7			4	9
7				1				3
	4				8		7	
		8	7		2	5		
	9							
		4	5		9	3	2	
	6		4				3	
4				2				6
8	2			9			1	4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	4	6	8	1	3	7	5	2
7	8	2	6	9	5	4	3	1
5	3	1	7	2	4	9	8	6
4	9	3	1	6	8	5	2	7
8	2	7	3	5	9	6	1	4
6	1	5	4	7	2	3	9	8
2	6	9	5	4	1	8	7	3
1	7	8	9	3	6	2	4	5
3	5	4	2	8	7	1	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head-waiter; 7 Orbit; 8 Inertia; 10 Not right; 11 Pays; 13 Feeler; 15 Beings; 17 Undo; 18 Lukewarm; 21 Threats; 22 Eaten; 23 Denigrated. Down: 1 Habit; 2 Attained; 3 Weight; 4 Item; 5 Entrain; 6 Found fault; 9 Assessment; 12 Tenement; 14 Endorse; 16 Purser; 19 Acted; 20 Taxi. QUICK - Across: 1 Foreboding; 7 Begin; 8 Learner; 10 Intruder; 11 Flag; 13 Abduct; 15 Lessen; 17 Oust; 18 Defender; 21 Younger; 22 About; 23 Tenderness. Down: 1 Fight; 2 Renounce; 3 Billet; 4 Drab; 5 Nonplus; 6 Obligatory; 9 Regenerate; 12 Venerate; 14 Dispute; 16 Bearer; 19 Dross; 20 Aged.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who missed the last penalty of World Cup 94?
2. Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
3. Which animal has red, grey and Arctic varieties?
4. Of what nationality is golfer Nick Price?
5. In which river are the Thousand Islands?
6. Who was the father-in-law of Moses?
7. Which poet's middle name was Bysshe?
8. Which Dutch queen's husband was Prince Bernhard?
9. Which French philosopher coined the term 'property is theft'?
10. To which family does the okapi belong?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 WWI; 2 Denmark and Norway; 3 Lothian; 4 The Lion King; 5 Human Immunodeficiency Virus; 6 Napoleon Bonaparte; 7 Month; 8 Danish; 9 John Prescott; 10 Romansch.

Niner: ABUSIVELY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2359 gives a garment,
581495 gives another garment,
967895 gives a third garment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Can't go wrong – the steak and six (count them) chips

Fine dining in the Orangery Restaurant

Picture perfect – the restaurant's picturesque setting

Tasty – goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli

It's fine dining at Moat House but you may have to push the boat out

By Kirsten Rawlins

SET in a 14th century manor house in a quaint rural Staffordshire village, family-run restaurant The Moat House, in Acton Trussell, is a beautiful venue.

It's set in splendid surroundings – complete with a moat – and is the perfect destination for an indulgent treat.

Its award-winning Orangery Restaurant is renowned for superior quality, excellent service and stunning presentation; but also its pricey menu but as the saying goes, you get what you pay for.

The tasting menu, for example, costs £60 each – or £90 each with paired wines carefully selected to complement every dish. Its gourmet menu, costs £45 per head, for a four-course meal, complete with amuse-bouche, fresh bread, vegetable panache, filter coffee and petit fours.

The eatery does, however, now have a 'fixed price menu', with three courses priced at £24 between 6.30-7.30pm, Sunday to Friday, making this high-end venue far more affordable for a regular trip.

The food, needless to say, remains every bit as high-quality and delicious as we'd hoped – but more on that later.

My partner and I visited The Moat House on a rainy Thursday evening after a long day at work and, though the pair of us were tired we were immediately put at ease by the attentive staff in the restaurant, complete with sparkling chandeliers and crisp, white tablecloths.

It is often the case that fixed price menus are limited to few options, but The Moat House's list was packed with delicious foods – from pig cheek and cured mackerel for starters, through to roast guinea fowl, sirloin steak and cod in browned butter for mains. After studying the options, my other half opted for the oriental pig cheek for a starter, and I for the goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli.

My ravioli was cheesy, tender and delicious. The oriental pig cheek, meanwhile, was tender and meaty, marinated in a tasty coating.

Treated

Before the starters arrived, we were treated to a basket of seeded and non-seeded bread, followed by a shot glass of celery and garlic soup.

Due to my desire to try outlandish foods – and my partner's tendency to stick to what he knows – we rarely end up eating the same meals when dining out, but this time around there was no doubt about what we wanted: the Staffordshire sirloin steak.

And, though the meat was fairly tender, had no gristle and was cooked as we'd requested, it was – for all intents and purposes – a fairly average steak and chips. The dish came with a side of buttery vegetables and six stacked chips.

As it happened, we were full, but the sweets looked too tempting, so we settled for the Valrhona dulce chocolate panna cotta and the banana and caramel arctic roll. And, my goodness, they were the best desserts I think I've ever had the delight of trying.

Considering we visited the restaurant on a Thursday – and by 9pm there was barely a table left – I would certainly recommend booking in advance, especially at weekends.

An incredible meal, with superb presentation, in a wonderful setting with reasonably attentive service.

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Charming listed cottage has delightful courtyard

A CHARMING Grade II listed cottage close in a courtyard setting, Trow Cottage, 30 Lax Lane, Bewdley, also has a garage.

It is now for sale through Allan Morris at a reduced price of £199,000 with no chain.

It has an attractive front stable door, entrance hall, lounge, a dining kitchen with a washing machine, dishwasher, fridge, freezer and fitted electric oven with hob over.

There is a stable-type door to the rear patio and a courtyard area, first floor bathroom with a white suite, Jack 'n' Jill bathroom, two bedrooms (one previously two singles).

The delightful courtyard setting to the rear is an enclosed haven with mature plants and shrubs, lawns, communal seating area and paved pathways. There is also a patio area and lawn.

For further information contact Allan Morris on 01299 400555 or visit www.allan-morris.co.uk

Semi is improved and extended too

THIS improved traditional semi-detached house in High Haden Crescent, Cradley Heath, includes a large through lounge/dining room with a log burner.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £190,000. With a garage, driveway, gas central heating, double glazing, it also has a long rear garden with patios and a lawn.

It has a porch, a reception hall with under-stairs cupboard, large lounge/dining room with a bay window and patio doors to the rear, extended fitted kitchen with fitted oven and hob with cooker hood over, three good-sized bedrooms and a bathroom with a corner bath with shower over.

Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com

Property

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PROPERTY SERVICES

COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE

A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F

DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£1200PCMDEPOSIT£1300●FEES

IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

A well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£895.00PCM DEPOSIT £995 ● FEES

ALDEFORD DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A Three bedroom Detached property with garage. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking and rear gardens.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN:YES

£695PCM DEPOSIT £725 ● FEES

COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL

A three bedroom semi detached property occupying a quiet cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden, fore garden, carport and garage.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

STEWPONY COURT STOURTON

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location, the accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, second bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED 12 Month Tenancy EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650.00PCM DEPOSIT £750 ● FEES

CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

A two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking and small enclosed garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =C

DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£525 DEPOSIT £625 ● FEES

TALBOT STREET LYE

A three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in an established residential area. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, lawned foregarden and paved rear garden.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN: YES

£525.00PCM DEPOSIT £625 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

CAVALIER DRIVE HALESOWEN

A very well presented first floor, two bedroom apartment in a popular and sought after location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal Entrance Hall, Private Reception, Lounge, fitted kitchen, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from electric heating, double glazing, allocated parking and communal gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING - C DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£495.00PCM DEPOSIT £595 ● FEES

ALBERT STREET LYE

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby and bathroom, two bedrooms on first floor and third bedroom in attic. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear yard.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: D 12 month tenancy DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO. SMOKERS: NO

£475.00PCM DEPOSIT £575 ● FEES

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UPPER ASHLEY STREET HALESOWEN

A one bedroom starter home situated in a quiet residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial gas central heating, driveway affording off road parking and enclosed side garden with patio area and storage shed. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 ● FEES

KINGS MEWS KING STREET WOLLASTON

A modern one bedroom ground floor apartment situated in walking distance of Wollaston Village with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge/kitchen,shower room and bedroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, off road communal parking and decked patio area. UNFUNISHED EPC RATING = C

DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395.00PCM DEPOSIT £495 ● FEES

Suzuki bring back Baleno

By James Parker

The name Baleno is not a new one for Suzuki. The Japanese marque introduced its original Baleno back in 1995 as a bigger brother to the Swift supermini.

Underneath the three-door hatchback, four-door saloon or estate bodyshell was a stretched Swift platform with certain engines shared. Although it was axed way back in 2002 and not exactly missed, Suzuki have still decided to resurrect the name.

In a way, it's quite fitting. Although the new car is undoubtedly more interesting to look at than its predecessor, it offers much of the same. The key selling points are a competitive price and plenty of space inside for both passengers and their luggage. Like the original, it does this by being noticeably larger than the Swift and therefore other vehicles within the supermini class. Unlike the Nineties version, there's plenty of new componentry that makes the new Baleno a serious competitor in the supermini segment.

There are a couple of engine options in the Baleno; Suzuki's existing 1.2-litre 'DUALJET' four cylinder engine with 90PS or a new 'BOOSTERJET' 1.0-litre three cylinder powerplant with 112PS. The 1.2-litre option comes with a mild hybrid system that uses a combined starter and generator to harvest electrical energy when the Baleno slows. Not only can this charge the battery and start the engine, it can also add additional power when pulling away from a standstill. This promises to bring a useful improvement in both economy and emissions figures.

As you may have guessed from the name, the 'BOOSTERJET' motor is yet another downsized turbocharged powerplant. While it may lack the hybrid system of the 1.2, clever management of the turbocharger means it shouldn't be too far behind, even though it will offer significantly more performance. While Suzuki do talk of 'superior driving perfomance', the Baleno is unlikely to be set up for B-road blasting.

With the Swift such a fun little car, the focus will be very much on ride comfort and refinement to ensure the Baleno appeals to a very different audience.

Compared to the Swift, the Baleno is longer, wider yet lower. This gives it a much less upright look although you'd never call it sleek. There is an attractive feature line that rises from the headlight, over the front wing before dropping down and slowly climbing to meet the window line. Up front there's a bold grille with a large Suzuki 'S' logo while the rear is not quiteas adventurous.

Expect trim levels to be similar to the Swift. That means SZ2 through to SZ4, although we doubt there's going to be a Sport version. Depending on the model you select, available equipment includes daytime LED running lights, climate control, alloy wheels and of course electric windows.

Those that must have the latest infotainment system will be interested in the 7" touchscreen system that is Apple CarPlay compatible via a USB lead. There's no mention of Android Auto but the system does offer MirrorLink so you can display your apps on the touchscreen.

Further highlights include an adaptive cruise control system that can alter the car's speed to suit traffic and autonomous braking too. This is a three stage system that works by alerting the driver, increasing braking force if they are already in use and applying the brakes if the middle pedal hasn't been touched. Other safety features include ABS, six airbags, traction and stability control.

Key selling points are a competitive price and plenty of space inside for both passengers and their luggage

Official figures are yet to be released but Suzuki are claiming the 1.2-litre mild hybrid should have carbon emissions of around 93g/km. Fuel economy has not been mentioned but should be competitive given the amount of carbon the Baleno looks likely to emit. This of course means free tax while features such as autonomous braking should mean insurance is low too. As for the warranty, this is a typical 3 year, 60,000 mile affair.

Some might think it a little odd that Suzuki seems to be competing with themselves by releasing a second car in the B segment supermini class. The truth of the matter is that the Swift and Baleno are different enough to ensure they are unlikely to steal sales from each other.

While the Swift is a funky little city car, the Baleno is that little bit bigger and more mature.

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07/57	**HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTEC SE I-SHIFT AUTO** 5dr, Grey, 63,000 miles	£4995
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13/13	**NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA** 5dr, White, 14,000 miles	£6495
13/13	**SUZUKI SWIFT 1.2 SZ3** 3dr, Copper, 28,000 miles	£6495
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10/59	**PEUGEOT 308 2.0 HDi SE CABRIOLET** 2dr, Mocha, 40,000 miles	£8295
15/15	**DACIA SANDERO 0.9 TCE LAUREATE** 5dr, Blue, 7000 miles	£8495
09/09	**MINI COOPER S 1.6** 3dr, Blue/White, 13,000 miles	£8495

		NOW
12/12	**SKODA FABIA 1.6TDi CR SCOUT** 5dr, White, 38,000 miles	£8495
10/60	**HONDA CR-Z 1.5 IMA GT HYBRID** 3dr, Black, 24,000 miles	£8695
12/12	**HONDA JAZZ 1.4 VTEC EX** 5dr, Automatic, Blue, 7000 miles	£8995
13/62	**SUZUKI SX4 1.6 SZ5** 4X4 5dr, White, 22,000 miles	£8995
10/60	**CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi** 3dr, White, 18,000 miles	£8995
12/62	**CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi AIRDREAM** 3dr, White, 23,000 miles	£9995
13/62	**NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 ACENTA** 5dr, Red, 26,000 miles	£10,995
11/61	**SKODA YETI 2.0 TDi CR SE** 5dr, Grey, 11,000 miles	£11,995
13/62	**NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5DCi ACENTA** 5dr, Grey, 18,000 miles	£11,995
11/61	**TOYOTA RAV 4 2.2 D-4D XT-R, 4X4** 5dr, Silver, 41,000 miles	£12,495
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06/56	**HONDA CR-V ES VTEC AUTOMATIC** 5dr, Silver, 27,000 miles	£8995

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE

14/64	**VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3CDTi L1 H1 VAN** Black, 10,000 miles	£7395 +VAT
14/14	**VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3CDTi L2 H1 VAN** Red, 19,000 miles	£7695+VAT
14/14	**TOYOTA PROACE 2.0HDi LWB VAN** White, 20,000 miles	£9295+VAT
14/14	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0CDTi LWB VAN** White, 24,000 miles	£9695+VAT
15/64	**TOYOTA PROACE 2.0HDi LWB VAN** White, 13,000 miles	£10,000+VAT
14/14	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0CDTi LWB SPORTIVE VAN** Silver, 24,000 miles	£11,195+VAT
15/15	**VAUXHALL VIVARO DOUBLECAB 1.6CDTi BI TURBO LWB** Gold, 8000 miles	£19,995+VAT

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VAUXHALL

New lease of life for updated SEAT Ibiza

By John Griffiths

It's a sign of the times that SEAT has tagged one of its smallest (in terms of capacity) engines with its sporty 'FR' model designation.

But this isn't any old three cylinder, 999cc petrol unit – it's one of a new generation of small but highly efficient engines where, on demand, turbo charging makes up for the lack of cubic centimetres but gives one litre economy when you're cruising or crawling.

At first sight it doesn't seem that much has changed – the sculpted side panels in particular make it instantly recognisable as a descendant of one of the most popular small cars on our roads. But look more closely and you see the bonnet and boot lines have been cleaned up, and you might notice the new range of colours too.

But it's under the skin where SEAT has spent its development money, with more efficient engines and a significant – and long awaited – upgrade to the interior which will help the Ibiza compete with Johnny-come-lately rivals.

The test model was a 1.0 litre Eco TSi with 110Ps on tap – pretty effective in a small car but also aided by a whole 200Nm of torque thanks to the turbo, so power is delivered more evenly and from lower revs.

It was coupled to the Audi VW Group's excellent DSG automatic gearbox, with seven electronically controlled ratios to ensure you're always in the most efficient ratio for acceleration or economy, depending on your right foot. You can, of course, also change gear manually using the gearstick sequentially or via the up/down paddles behind the steering wheel. For me that's useful to limit speed on a steep descent, or you take full control on a twisty stretch of road, but for the most part the auto system is both rapid and responsive enough for you to leave it doing its job.

That addition of DSG partly explains the £16,140 price tag for this test model, but worth it if you're an auto fan or fed up with pumping your clutch foot up and down in traffic. And it comes without the power and economy drawbacks of older auto transmissions.

But FR also denotes of the highest, and the sportiest, trim levels so it also comes with extra standard equipment including the distinctive twin exhausts, sports front seats, unique 16-inch alloys with low profile tyres, sports suspension, automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control and, of course, a sports style flat-bottomed steering wheel.

There are three other FR engine options, two 1.4 turbo diesels with 90 and 105PS respectively, and the flagship 1.4 TSI with 150PS on tap.

Lively

Compared to normally aspirated, and in many cases smaller one litre cars, the FR's turbo makes it feel lively from the moment you set off, and according to official figures 60mph comes up in an impressive 9.3 seconds.

Line up for an overtake and the DSG system rapidly responds by changing down one or two gears to get you quickly and safely past. Unless you're pressing on, and with the availability of that higher, seventh gear, the engine is barely audible and you're more likely to notice some background noise from the wide, low profile tyres.

According to official laboratory tests, the 1.0 FR is capable of averaging 64.2mpg – and a low, tax-saving 102g/km of CO2 – but in real world driving and traffic conditions the test car returned a still creditable 50mpg.

The sports suspension doesn't result in a harsh ride, but what it does very well is to sharpen up the Ibiza's handling. It's quick to turn in and holds its line even through bumpy corners which help to make it a fun and rewarding car to drive. The brakes are smooth and powerful too.

Interior and load space of just short of 300 litres haven't changed, but the Ibiza is quite capable of accommodating four in comfort, with the five doors of the test model making access to the rear easier than in three-door versions.

It's in the interior where the major changes have taken place. It feels much higher quality, with switchgear from Ibia's big brother, the Leon, and a centre colour touchscreen controlling a range of functions. There's also a driver information display between the two principal instruments.

The test car was also kitted out with a number of extras including a first class upgraded sound system £155), climate control (as opposed to standard aircon) at £320 and rear parking sensors at £220. For £725 the car was also showcasing one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive communications, entertainment and media set-ups available in any small car, all controlled via a central touch screen.

Features include a three-dimensional navigation system with voice control, Bluetooth, MP3 and CD player, SEAT's 'Full Link' system consisting of Mirrorlink, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, capable of integrating with smart phone functions. As with its efficient engines and sharper styling, this technological wizardry shows the competent little Ibiza has undergone more than a facelift. It's given the car a new lease of life to broaden its appeal and tackle the competition head on.

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Toyota Mirai is named World Green Car 2016

Mirai, Toyota's hydrogen fuel cell saloon, has been declared the 2016 World Green Car, winning through in a shortlist of three that also included the new Toyota Prius.

The title, announced at the New York International Auto Show, was decided by a jury of 73 automotive journalists from 23 countries worldwide.

Karl Schlicht, Toyota Motor Europe's executive vice president for sales and marketing, said: "As recognised leaders in hybrid technology, we are truly honoured to have received such an award.

"This is a clear recognition of Toyota's long-term commitment to the fuel cell, a convincing, safe and relevant mobility solution which is leading the way to development of the ultimate eco-car."

Mirai, which emits nothing other than water vapour when driven, is a pioneering vehicle that will contribute to the development of future hydrogen energy-based society.

In spite of its advanced powertrain technology, it is a practical and fun-to-drive car, with a quiet, comfortable ride and striking contemporary design.

The UK is among the first European markets to offer the Toyota Mirai, its introduction here taking advantage of the development of national infrastructure for the supply and sale of hydrogen fuel.

Early customers for the vehicle include Transport for London, the private car hire service greentomatocars and hydrogen energy business ITM Power.

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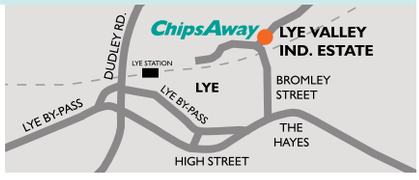

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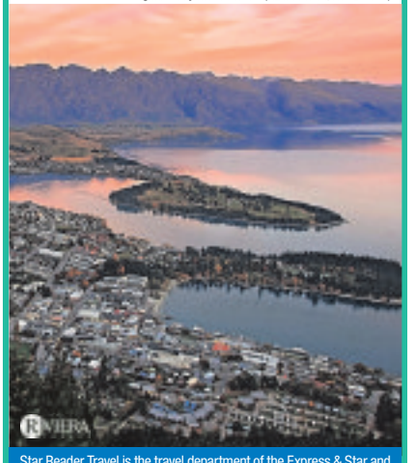

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40ft x 12ft, DG, CH. Sleeps 8 people. 1 Master bedroom, with ensuite shower and toilet, 2 additional bedrooms, with separate bathroom (toilet and bath). Fully equipped kitchen with combi-boiler. Large lounge (double bed in sofa). Sited on Holiday Village, Clarach Bay, with views over Cardigan Bay.
£16,500 ono
inc 2016 site fees.
Call 07402 542042 or email richardfishing@hotmail.com

STATIC CARAVAN
with decking, on private plot on quiet site in mid Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20 minutes to nearest coast, ground rent included for 2016.
£6,800.
07555 303350.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED.
Can pick up ASAP.
Call me on 07717 090817.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
WOLVERHAMPTON RACE COURSE, DUNSTALL PARK, WV6 0PE.
SUNDAY 3RD APRIL
9 AM - 4 PM
07712 597 468
www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk

ANTIQUES COLLECTORS FAIR Sunday 3rd April, Oak Park Leisure Center, Lichfield road, Walsall Wood, WS9 9PQ. Open 10am-3pm £1.50 entrance. £1 OAP. Free parking. Tel 07947271947

PENKRIDGE ANTIQUES & Collectors market. Thursday 7th April, Penkridge ST19 5AP. Free parking, free entry. Open 9am- 3pm. Tel 07947271947

3 Home & Services

furniture

CHAISE LONGUE 76 inch x 28 inch, gold and grey, deep buttoned, turned oak legs, very good condition, £200. 01384 892972.

LEATHER SETTEES 3 seater and 2 seater. Natural leather. From DFS, very good condition. Absolute bargain. £300. 01384 278694.

SIDEBOARD £70. Ikea 2 double wardrobes. £50 for both. two white sun loungers. £40. Car boot items £25. 07899 307165.

SUITE Excellent condition, Sherborne fabric 2 seater sofa and 2 recliner chairs. Non-smoking family, no pets. Can deliver. £350. 07896 817613.

TWO PIECE SUITE quality 3 seater and 1 chair, gold fabic, brown leather arms, Immaculate. Quick sale £250 ono. 01384 456375.

household appliances

BEKO ELECTRIC cooker, black colour, under 3 years old, £120 ono. 01384 298792 or 07855 200736.

BELLING ELECTRIC brown, slot in cooker, double oven, good working condition. £100. o.n.o. Buyer to collect. Perton: 01902 746129.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

TWO MATCHING DISPLAY cabinets, mahogany, £100. Telephone 01902 730316.

items wanted

All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
•Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
HOUSE CLEARANCES
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A ABSOLUTELY BEST price given for single items or houses cleared. Antique, old, reproduction. Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693.

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby / Bachmann / Bowmans / Roundhouse / Graham / Farsh / any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547.
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy- big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS wanted by private collector. Please contact 01902 676540.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

60'S WINKLEPICKERS / PLATFORM SHOES, Collectables, memorabilia, quirky, old, unusual. 01384 484309 / 07930 949337.

specialists at your service

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA MasterCard Checkatrade.com

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

A BRILL CLEAN for your Carpets & Suite. O.A.P Discounts. Best Prices. Call Steve 07496 922324.

couriers

RAINBOW COURIERS
Parcels / Pallets, Local / Distance, Business/ Domestic.
Call: 07884 353732

double glazing

ATS DOUBLE GLAZING UPVC back doors from £299, front doors from £389 fitted. 01922 442720.

electrical services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

external rendering

QUICK RESPONSE RENDERING Professional, Reliable Service. Call Stuart anytime: 01902 324727.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied and fitted.
6x6 H/D Treated panels £15.95
6x5 Feather edge panels £18.95
8 foot concrete posts £8.95
12 inch x 6 foot gravel boards £7.95
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.com

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...
Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for house clearances and bereavements.
Shops, Schools and Commercial clearances
Also removals undertaken.
All rubbish removed. Carriers licence held
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART GARAGES / SHEDS, RUBBISH REMOVED
WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

painters / decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painter and Decorator
Wallpaper is my speciality, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194

removals

A1 KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS & HOUSE CLEARANCES
Single items,
Full houses, Offices etc
Recession rates, FREE QUOTES
We take the stress away
40 years experience
07966 281957

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

Stourbridge Removals
20+ YEARS EXP
Home, Office,
Part loads, landlord
clean & repair service.
House clearances.
Quality service guaranteed
lowest rates
Call John - 07802 876 876
office - 01562 640 640

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

GARDEN POND SALE 22 fish including large Koi Carp, also equipment available, £250 ono. 07595 609145.

JEFFRY'S DOG WALKING/sitting service. W-ton. Fully insured/reg. Senior Citizen rates. 07974 913703

KIND HOMES WANTED
TARKA 10yr female Lakeland Terrier X golden curls but now been clipped
ZIGGY 12yr Male Patterdale X They came in together through no fault of their own, lovely little dogs would make ideal pets prefer to go together.
CHESTER 2.5yr white staffie, loves to play
MINI 2yr collie X mostly white, sweet little girl loves cuddles.
LADDY 2yr male patterdale X lovely little chap
Telephone 01588 640932.
also other dogs
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS
Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.
So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A FURNISHED FLAT Claregate, suit single, mature, responsible worker, inc CH, electricity, secure parking, £350pcm. No DSS. 07957 595840.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY FURNISHED clean modern flat, £90pw, suit mature DSS. 07550 002549.

THREE BED house to share with one other, Stafford, near hospital, double bedroom, suit professional person. £90pw. 07543 635585.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

EVERY TIME!

WE PAY 100% of purchase price

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6

or 01902 628047 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

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• Any Price • Any Condition • Any Area
Call Paula 01384 467643
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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
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Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
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Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

PROPERTIES WANTED
✔ Any area
✔ Any circumstances
✔ Any condition
Direct Sale | No Chains | No Stress
Fast CASH completion
Call Jack on **07507 865668**

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

7 Jobs

employment wanted

CLASS 1 DRIVER clean licence, CPC, digi card, experienced, reliable, aged 48, seeks permenent position. 4 on 4 off. 07852 234311.

DRIVER very experienced, 7.5 tonne licence, van, lorry, seeks any work, full, part time or casual, CPC, any trade. 01922 512935.

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools.
01384 375672 /07527 360303.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 530 Diesel, M Sport, 06 reg, FSH, fully loaded, 19in upgrade wheels, lady owner, lovely condition, £6,500 o.n.o. 01384 350369.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£21.00 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

FORD RANGER XLT WILDTRAK 06 reg, MoT's, SH, good condition. £3,500 ono.
01902 259860 / 07910 728384.

JAGUAR S-TYPE SPORT DIESEL AUTO
'Goodwood Green'. Full leather (Tan). Sat Nav. 6 track CD, FSH. Body work and mechanically very good.
£2,000.
01902 831158.

LANDROVER FREELANDER SE TD4, 2008, blue, 68,000 miles, MoT June, excellent condition. £9,200. 01902 732041.

MERCEDES A160 BlueEffy Classic SE, silver, 61 plate, 2,250 miles, 9 months MoT, immaculate, serviced, £7,500 ono. 07736 252255.

PORSCHE BOXSTER
2004, 64,000 miles, MoT'd, excellent condition.
£6,950.
01743 761896 or 07778 964431.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA HATCHBACK SRi
60 plate, 1800 Ecotec, petrol engine, 34,000 miles, full service history, immaculate, 12 months MoT, sensors front, rear spotlamps, black diamond polish, chrome windows,
£6,500.
01902 765739.

VW PASSAT 1.9 TD SALOON
2006. Above average condition. Dealer FSH. Reluctant genuine sale. First to see will buy.
£3,000 ono.
01384 621507 / 07535 696469.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD FIESTA blue 1999, 10 months MoT, 3 lady owners, 56,000 miles, very reliable, £480. 01384 573502.

FORD FOCUS Estate, Mot Dec 2016, good runner, £495 ono. 07966 295135.

FORD KA, 07 reg, 32,200 miles, 12 months MoT. Recent full service. Excellent condition and extremely reliable. £1,350 ono.
01384 872651.

HONDA CRV 4X4, 2002, 138,000 miles, electrics, 12 months MoT, bodywork dents, used daily, reliable car, any trial, £600.
07746 922105.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 1 lady owner from new, FSH, MoT'd. £950. 07989 700543

JAGUAR S-TYPE 3.0 V6 AUTOMATIC
2001, 92,000 miles, MoT Aug, full leather, excellent condition.
£950
07873 218280.

MERCEDES C CLASS 180 MoT November, new tyres. Offers.
01384 274113.

MINI COOPER 02 reg, black with white roof and mirrors, MoT Feb 2017, clean condition, drives well. £1,500. Call 07512 095618.

PEUGEOT 206 1.1 5dr, 51 reg, silver, 58k with fsh, MoT, 1 former lady keeper, excellent condition £895. 07804 831294.

PEUGEOT 206 SW, 53 plate petrol, 1997cc, 64,000 miles, £450 ono. 07802 417713.

PEUGEOT 206C 1.4 ESTATE Silver, 55,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 2 owners, FSH, 1st to see will buy £1,295. 07939 483221

RENAULT CLIO Grande, Y reg, 1.2, 11 months MoT, 3-dr, good condition for year, ideal first car. £375 ono. 07976 293994.

RENAULT LAGUNA
2005, black, 141k, fsh, 2 litre turbo. Top spec, full leather, Sat Nav, air con, keyless entry/ignition, auto lights/wipers, new tyres, Dec MoT, serviced.
£750 ono.
07853 407561.

ROVER 75 Classic V6, Auto, W reg, 4dr, 2.0, MoT, blue, 85k, CD, alloys, excellent condition, £575 ono. 07979 784585.

VAUXHALL ASTRA BERTONE
2005, silver/grey, convertible. Excellent condition. Lovely runner.
£800 ono.
01902 897186.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi.
2004, Blue metallic.
CD player.
Excellent condition.
Ideal first car.
First to see will buy.
£1,000 ono.
0791 7771033.

VW GOLF Estate 1.9 SDi, 2002, MoT Feb 2017, good condition, drives excellent, high mileage, £900. 01902 847906.

VW POLO Twist SDi 1.9D, 3dr, hatch, 05 blue long MoT, very good condition but high miles(161k), hence £1,200. 07976 714026.

VAUXHALL OMEGA ESTATE 2.2 DTi.
2002, 147,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air-con, alarm, CD, Diesel, Manual.
£895. o.n.o.
Telephone 07808 672716.

classic cars

MINI MAYFAIR
1993, 38,343 miles, blue, 2nd owner from new, metallic paint, 4 new tyres. Factory fitted sunroof and radio. Viewing most welcome DY6 0AE.
£3,500.
Telephone 07712 588245.

WANTED, CLASSIC Cars. Private cash buyer.Instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 07 reg, 1 owner from new, FSH, low mileage, red, £2,100 ono.
07939 483221.

driving tuition

Homer's
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549649, 01902 597035.

ISUZU PICK UP OR SIMILAR WANTED No dealers.
07754 121452.

spares & accessories

clutches / brakes / gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328 or
07972 169554 anytime
For Example:
Citroen C1, C2, C3
Hyundai 110
Toyota Yaris
Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

AT MANYANA Gentlemans Club, 5* customer rated-Mon-Fri 10-9pm. Sat-Sun: 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.

MALE 60
Very sincere, easy going and loving, WLTM someone for relationship.
Box Number C20285, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

YOUNG AT HEART LADY 69 YEARS
Young, very sincere and attractive with GSOH, wishes to meet a tall gentleman aged 65-75 for outings and friendship and possible relationship.
Box Number P20288 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

ADVERTISEMENTS CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
   All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
   Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
   The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
   Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
    All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
    Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
    Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk
and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

ClassifiedAds

Express & Star

DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:

0844 381 5936

and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text

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Single Women

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JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ **Text only to Mailbox: 5404865**

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. **Text only Box 4078225**

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137**

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. **Text only Box: 4139156**

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135**

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh. I am married with open marriage. **Text only Box: 4020257**

SARA, 39, homeowner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box: 419673**

ATTRACTIVE, slim woman looking for fun and excitement with guy 35-40 pls text. **Text only Mailbox: 5419773**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wining/dining, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413**

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 407953**

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311**

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 421339**

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HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115**

MARGARET 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM child friendly male, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129**

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

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LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

LOU, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTM a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cozy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855**

FREYA 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851**

LISA 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839**

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821**

PAT 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277**

68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

JULIA 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may to lead to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695**

DEBBIE, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male 45-65yrs for fun meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579**

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

LADY Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237**

BLACK lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384**

CHARLENE, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597**

JOANNA, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595**

Single Men

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YOUNG at heart male, smart, looks younger than age, likes socalising, looking for companionship & friendship. **Text only Mailbox: 5412069**

SHROPSHIRE trucker, 54, WLTM female, 40-65, black or white, for friendship, fun and hopefully more x **Text only Mailbox: 5411957**

DOMINANT Goddess sought by tall slim compliant white male, 50, who WLTM an elegant, sensual, high heeled lady, any age/race. **Text only Mailbox: 4673363**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, looking for a genuine, caring lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421089**

SMOKIN' rock geezer, 53, into gigging & camping WLTM rock chick 46-58ish, into similar, to share experiences, GSOH essential! **Text only Mailbox: 5414037**

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, bike rides and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

GRAHAM, 50s, 5ft10, blue eyes, very smart, OHAC, solvent, smoker, WLTM a very feminine, sensual, high heels lady, 36-52, for romantic evenings out and holidays, South Cheshire, Staffs, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421103**

CARING male, 55, N/S, medium build, likes meals out, music, cinema, sports, driving, seeks female, 40-60 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 239148**

JOHN, 60s, sincere, looking to love and be loved, hurt in the past, likes meals out, sports and east coast. **Text only Mailbox: 4467786**

YOUNG looking 56 single male, looking for a relationship with petite 40 to 50 year old, likes going out/staying in. **Text only Mailbox: 5428643**

MIKE, 6ft, medium to big build, WLTM lady for no stings fun, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421359**

MALE seeking female, 45 plus, status unimportant, discretion assured for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418481**

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTM an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385**

MATURE 23 year old. Career minded. Workaholic. Looking for a chat maybe more? Age does not matter. **Text only Mailbox: 5423510**

NEIL 52, solvent, average build, GSOH seeks a caring romantic female for fun nights in and out, and lots of cuddles & kisses. **Text only Mailbox: 5418572**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times, **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

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WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701**

YOUNG at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. **Text only to mailbox: 5321154**

SOUTH Notts guy, 60, medium 5'10 seeks attractive lady for evening & weekend fun. **Text only Mailbox: 5339775**

MALE 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine, caring, likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

MALE, 63, caring, easygoing, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861**

MALE, 46, slim, WLTM a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853**

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MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for a special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5381487**

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking women for sexy fun. **Text only to mailbox: 5383533**

ATTRACTIVE British Indian male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 227154**

ASIAN male, 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WLTM Asian female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 235383**

SEXY Indian male, 40, dark hair/eyes, fit, seeks fit, sporty, sexy, romantic female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301791**

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561**

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420721**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790**

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dom female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. **Text only to mailbox: 4347071**

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. **Text only to mailbox: 5383053**

Gay Singles

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I am looking for discreet fun with a male, age doesn't matter, get in touch if you are interested. **Text only to mailbox: 4172337**

BI curious male, slim, fit, looking for weekdays fun, looking for someone to show me the ropes, 45 to 65. **Text only mailbox no: 5378837**

MATURE male 70 seeking similar male for discreet meetings. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4830151**

BI-CURIOUS 45 years old, slim and good looking, looking for younger bi-curious guy for discreet fun. **Text only to Mailbox: 4917435**

57YR old male, slim, fit, seeks guy, 30-45 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309951**

BLACK male seeking black male aged 25 to 30, for discreet adult fun, maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox: 5409036**

SLIM late 50's male, seeks gay/bi/CD, slim-medium build, 25-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 336329**

Just Friends

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CHRIS genuine gay female, 55, smoker, likes days out, cosy nights in, seeks local, feminine gay female, 40-50's for special relationship. Nottinghamshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373131**

CAROL, bi curious lady, blonde, 5ft2, short hair, blue eyes, size 14, WLTM a similar lady between 50-60 years old. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421281**

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Police team Eliott Bastable, Pete Gibbons, Carl Southwick, Gavin Sloan, Kev Franklin, and Maria

Maria is congratulated on a previous success

Maria spends hours practising

Still close – Maria with her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan

Cue Ronnie's cousin who wants to Rocket ahead

AS one member of the family continues to make the news, Maria Catalano is hoping she will be a headline act in April.

The 33-year-old from Netherton will be striving to win her first world snooker championship after finishing runner-up on five occasions – just a couple of weeks before her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan bids for his sixth crown at the famous Crucible venue in Sheffield.

Catalano's shot at glory will take place in the more low-key surroundings of the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds as the women's game fights to break down the barriers of a male-dominated sport.

Encourage

But the current world No. 4 is hoping that the days where the ladies' efforts are overlooked will soon be a thing of the past. The World Ladies Billiards and Snooker Limited (WLBS) was formed last year to encourage participation from grassroots level and raise the profile of the women's game, joining forces with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Dudley's world No. 1 – and Catalano's close friend – Reanne Evans caused a stir last year when she pushed former world champion Ken Doherty in a 10-8 loss in the qualifying event for last year's world championships. And Hong Kong's Ng On Yee will be in the qualifying tournament this time around.

"The WLBS has been formed and the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association have taken us under their wing," said Catalano, who plays on the local circuit for West Midlands Police in the Stourbridge League and Woodfield in the West Midlands League.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The difference in prize money is crazy."

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The women's game needs more exposure and they seem to have big plans. The difference in prize money is crazy. For our world championships it was £1,500 for the winner last year – the men's was £300,000."

For the time being Catalano has to be content with chasing the meagre offerings in tournaments around the country while working for the family business, Antonio's Ice Cream.

"I have never been able to take the game full-time because I have never had a sponsor," she added.

Her love of the game is obvious. "I was about five or six and I remember having a snooker table cake for my birthday," she laughed.

"Obviously my family were interested in the sport with Ronnie playing. I saw him doing well and earning a few quid and thought I want to try that. We all used to watch it on the TV and I was a big Steve Davis fan."

While her friends were out and about, Catalano was chalking up the hours on the green baize. "I started to play at Brierley Hill Snooker Club and that was it. I played every single night. I fell in love with it straight away."

Even success on the American pool circuit failed to tempt her away. "I won the Florida State Championships, which is a big event, and qualified for the US Open. But pool is not for me."

And Catalano, who beat her idol Davis in an exhibition match last year and teamed up with Evans to defeat Shaun Murphy and Mark Selby in a promotional event last month, has never felt out of place among male team-mates and opponents.

A few tips from O'Sullivan helped along the way and the pair are still in regular contact.

"He is just very special. I would say he is the best ever. I know he causes a bit of controversy now and again, but he is a genius."

Catalano will be cheering O'Sullivan on at the Crucible as usual, but for now is focused on her own shot at world glory after missing last year.

"The ambition is still there and I am going to win it one day, definitely."

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Sport

Ronnie's cousin is on cue to rocket ahead

Page 39

Heathens in perfect start to the season

CRADLEY kicked off their season in perect fashion with a 51-39 win over Belle Vue on their Monmore Green return.

Star duo Max Clegg and Ashley Morris both went unbeaten as the Heathens disposed of the National League newcomers to claim all three points.

Skipper Clegg saw off former teammate Matt Williamson to win the opening race of the night – setting the tone for a powerful performance as the home side accounted for 12 race winners to come out on top.

The two sides traded heat advantages in the early stages, but when Morris picked off the exciting Daniel Bewley to win heat four it gave them some breathing space. Two more classy wins for the heat-leader pair kept the Heathens ahead at halfway before debutants James Purchase and Ben Basford made a breakthrough with a crucial 5-1 in heat eight.

Purchase dusted himself down from a nasty fall after he was wiped out by the enthusiastic Bewley in the original staging to claim a composed race win in the re-run – his first since returning to the sport after a decade-long absence.

The Heathens looked set to strike another devastating 5-1 in the next race as middle order duo Luke Chessell and Jack Kingston stormed from the tapes to hit the front. However, Kingston picked up some unexpected grip entering the final lap and was sent flying awkwardly into the fence on the back straight.

Cradley nonetheless came on strong in the closing stages, with Morris and Clegg striking timely 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to wrap up victory and prevent the Colts from taking a consolation point.

CRADLEY: Max Clegg 15, Ashley Morris 13+2, Luke Chessell 11, Ben Basford 5+1, James Purchase 5, Jack Kingston 1, Bradley Andrews 1.

BELLE VUE: Daniel Bewley 11+1, Rob Shuttleworth 8+1, Matt Williamson 8, Lee Payne 4, Andy Mellish 3+2, David Holt 2.

Runners are not Farah way from Olympic champ

THE blue hoops rubbed shoulders with the red white and blue as DK Running Club athletes lined up on the start line with a Great Britain team featuring double Olympic champion Mo Farah in the Cardiff Half Marathon.

The line-up also boasted a World Cross Country Champion, Commonwealth Games Marathon Gold medallist and other big names. With Farah in third place, runners from DK were not far back, albeit about half an hour behind, recording some quick times.

Previously as the weather started to warm up a little so did the action. Simon Blizzard came away with a PB of 1.24.13, taking seventh place over a flat course in the Heyford Park Half Marathon.

Five club runners finished the Stafford Half Marathon in around 85 minutes and eight came home in the benchmark of around an hour and a half.

In the Palace Half Marathon at Hampton Court, Andy Morrison recorded a PB despite running five miles beforehand in preparation for the London Marathon and there were a host of PBs in the Ashby 20.

Five fighters head for finals weekend

Boxing

FIVE fighters, including two from Dudley clubs, have added to the West Midlands contingent heading to finals weekend in the England Junior Championships. Four wins and a walkover in the quarter-finals settled matters last weekend.

The semi-finals and final will be staged by the Heart of Portsmouth outfit on the south coast, over two days this weekend, starting on Saturday.

Bouts are contested over three three minutes, with the last four draw for each weight computerised at the venue on the day.

The second national tournament on the unpaid calendar for 2016 continues with two divisions separated by age, one encompassing 2000-01 born entrants and another solely for 2001. The last eight clashes at the Meres Leisure Centre in Grantham saw James Mongan, Raheem Mohammed, Hamzah Ahmed, Paige Goodyear and Phoebe Hodson all progress.

Mongan, from Priory Park Boxing Club, was a unanimous points winner over Samual Strand from Burton Park at 46kg in the 2001 only 'cadet' class. Mohammed, representing Merridale Boxing Club in Wolverhampton, took on Shepshed's Kian Corssen at 48kg and had his hand raised by unanimous points decision.

Walsall Wood's Hamzah Ahmed had to work at 57kg in the 2000-01 category, but got through on a split decision, seeing off Bradley Bethall, from Braunstone Golden Gloves in Leicester.

Goodyear, the double national champion, from Brooklands home gym in Dudley, prevailed unanimously at 54kg in the 2000-01 girls section over Scunthorpe's Chloe Morris.

Hodson, of the Right Stuff in Stafford, was handed a bye at 63kg. Merridale duo Simran Kaur and Kara Murray were already through.

YELTZ CLAIM DERBY SPOILS

Halesowen Town 2 Stourbridge 0

A BUMPER Bank Holiday attendance of 2,107 saw Halesowen put a huge dent in rival Stourbridge's play-off hopes.

In a lively and tense start, Aaron Griffiths's shot was beaten away by Stourbridge goalkeeper Matthew Gould and Halesowen cleared from Karl Hawley in the 10th minute after Dan Scarr headed on.

The game truly burst into life just before the interval when home substitute Dan Sweeney fired the Yeltz into a 38th minute leada.

The Glassboys squandered a glorious chance to level from the penalty spot just three minutes later after Ashley Parsons-Smith fouled Hawley on the turn, but Hawley ballooned his spot-kick over the bar. Further Stourbridge chances to equalise went begging before the interval as Scarr's header was saved on line by Dan Platt and the rebound was scrambled clear.

In first half injury time, Hawley's cross along goal then escaped Matt Dodd at the far post

Stourbridge failed to make much impression on the solid home defence in the second half with Hawley denied after an hour with his back to goal just one yard out before Sean Geddes dragged a long shot wide.

Rebound

The Yeltz then doubled their lead in the 80th minute after Danny Bragoli's shot was well saved by Gould but substitute Maradonna – Dumitru Maradonna Chiriac – marked his home debut by following up to score from the rebound.

Stourbridge continued to be wasteful in the final minutes with Justin Richards nodding over from a yard out and it was Chiriac who controlled to fire just past the visiting post after 89 minutes for the triumphant hosts.

Though this has been another fine season at Stourbridge, there is also no denying failure to reach the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-offs would be cause for great disappointment.

Stourbridge had boosted their play-off hopes two days previously with a 3-0 home win over Buxton, all the goals coming in the last half an hour from Justin Richards, Karl Hawley and Dan Scarr. Yeltz returned from the long trip to Darlington 1883 with a 2-1 defeat. Michael Turner had given Yeltz the lead.

Twickenham eludes Lions again

Stourbridge (in hoops) contest a line-out against Wolverhampton in the Intermediate Cup

Wolverhampton 16 Stourbridge Lions 5

SO the Lions lost 16-5 at the final hurdle in the Midlands area RFU Intermediate Cup and Twickenham is still a step too far for the Lions for the third time.

However, amongst the bruised bodies and tired limbs will be the knowledge that they put up a valiant fight and pushed the home side to the limit.

Against the wind in the first half the Lions kept Wolverhampton to only three penalty goals and after going down to a converted try early in the second they scored their own try and the final points of the match.

An infringement gave the Wolves 10 Ben Barnes the chance to open the scoring. The rest of the first half was closely contested. However, two further Barnes penalties gave Wolves a 9-0 half-time lead that didn't reflect the efforts the Lions put into the game.

The second half opened disastrously, with the Lions conceding an early try from a tap penalty after consistent Wolves pressure, the big inside centre Rhys Morgan going in under the posts for a converted try.

With 10 minutes left the Lions finally got the try their pressure deserved. A drive to the line, aided by several backs, ended with No.8 James Deakin going over for an unconverted try.

Complaint over order of players

THIS was a difficult week for Stourbridge Chess Club with two crucial matches and a shortage of players.

On Tuesday Stourbridge lost to Halesowen in Wolverhampton division 4.

The first team played its final match in Birmingham division 1 against South Birmingham 'B' knowing only a win would give the team any chance of avoiding relegation. The team got off to a good start with draws for Nic Fallowfield and Greg Dyett and an early win for grandmaster Keith Arkell on board 1. This was followed by Jeremy Fallowfield drawing on board 2.

This left Nick Arkell and Julie Wilson with another point needed to win the match, but both lost in the quick play finish, meaning Stourbridge will probably be relegated. However Stourbridge have submitted a complaint to the league stating that South Birmingham fielded their players in an incorrect order. Stourbridge are now awaiting the outcome of their complaint.

On Thursday there was another first team match, this time in the Wolverhampton league. Stourbridge are in contention but did themselves no favours by having to field a team of reserves. They put up a good fight with draws for Martin Berridge and Sam Bradley, a great win for Colin Woodall but a loss for board 3. It then all came down to the top two boards Dave Scriven and Tony Shaw against the two Walsall Kipping heavyweights Anderton and Bellin.

Both games reached the quickplay finish and with only a few minutes left, Shaw lost and in a mad time scramble Scriven lost a piece and eventually lost on time. Stourbridge lost 4-2 and are now third in the league.

Anyone interested in playing for Stourbridge Chess Club, call Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 or visit www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk.

Stars of past line up for Pears skipper

CRICKETING stars of the past will return to New Road for a match in aid of Worcestershire captain Daryl Mitchell's Benefit Season.

The 30-over game takes place at 2pm on Sunday September 4 as a Pears Legends XI takes on local rivals the Bears. The Pears team includes a number well-known former county players including Ben Smith, Kabir Ali, Richard Stemp Vikram Solanki, Martin Weston, Gareth Andrew and Hartley Alleyne. The Bears will be captained by Paul Smith.

Side attractions include stalls, food, music and rides. For more details, call Mark Ashbourne on 07506 747619.

★★★

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